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Cabinet to resume Wye debate today

By DANNA HARMAN

Ten days after implementation of the Wye Memorandum officially began, the cabinet is expected to convene today to ratify the agreement.

The Prime Minister's Office issued a statement yesterday saying that the ratification process - which was halted Friday after the Mahaneh Yehuda suicide bombing - would resume in light of "...reports according to which, the Palestinian Authority has begun taking actual steps against the bases of terror, and against the terrorists in its areas."

An official at the Prime Minister's Office said the government had received new assurances from the Americans about the Palestinian crackdown on terror, and that observations of Palestinian actions on the ground in this regard had been satisfactory.

When breaking off the ratification discussions last week, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had set another condition for the resumption of talks: an explicit assurance that the Palestinian National Council will convene and vote on the nullification of the Palestinian Covenant sections calling for Israel's destruction.

See CABINET, Page 2

Two Israelis wounded near Otniel

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Two Israelis were wounded by shots fired at their vehicle near Otniel in the southern Hebron Hills late last night.

One, whose wounds were described as moderate, was hit in the chest, and the other suffered wounds in the leg. Both were taken to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

Yehuda Glick, a resident of Otniel, told Israel Radio that he was watching the election results on television when he heard several bursts of gunfire. He said IDF troops were parading at the junction of the main highway that leads to Jerusalem, approximately half a kilometer from the entrance to the settlement.

There were conflicting reports as to whether shots were fired from a passing car or whether several terrorists had set up an ambush to fire at Israeli vehicles.

The IDF Spokesman confirmed the attack but was unable to release further details.

Local results offer no national insights

Yesterday's local elections yielded no dramatic upsets. Ehud Olmert will keep on running Jerusalem. Ron Huldai will become Tel Aviv's new mayor almost by default, and Amram Mitzna took Haifa yet again. Ya'acov Terner was a sterling candidate in Beersheba against the Likud's lackluster incumbent, David Bunfeld.

On paper, the Likud lost some cities and won others. On paper, Labor lost and won some mayoral races as well. In some places the predictable happened; in others not quite. Does it mean anything? Decidedly not.

From the vantage point of national politics nothing seemed natural in the local campaigns. Many birds of a feather did not flock together but ran against each other on rival lists. On the other hand, the oddest bedfellows banded together and politi-

cal foes joined the tickets they battled with all their might only weeks ago.

At the same time long identified political figures disguised themselves as independents, the doves flew with the hawks, and the hawks were backed by the doves.

Some tickets had no mayoral candidates and some candidates were left ticketless.

There were absurdities to rival what Alice saw in Wonderland.

Increasingly the scripts seemed to have been written with deliberate intent to confound and frustrate political pundits. Known political frameworks appeared to have been mangled, re-assembled, taken apart again and in all rendered quite meaningless by familiar old yardsticks.

See ANALYSIS, Page 2

Television exit polls predict: Labor takes TA, B'sheba; Likud wins in Netanya

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Labor claimed victory in yesterday's local elections after early exit polls suggested its candidates were winning control of six of the seven major cities. Jerusalem was the exception, as Mayor Ehud Olmert won another term.

Labor's main wins came in Tel Aviv, which voted for Ron Huldai; Beersheba, where Ya'acov Terner ousted Likud incumbent David Bunfeld; and Haifa, where Mayor Amram Mitzna was reelected by a large majority.

Labor incumbents remained in power in Rishon LeZion, Holon, and Givatayim, and Labor won in Hadera.

The Likud triumphed in Netanya, where Miriam Fireburg received 44 percent of the vote; Ashdod, where incumbent Zvi Zilker got 65%, while Labor only got 4%; and in Ofakim, Afula, Ramle, Lod, Kiryat Ata, and Kiryat Malachi.

Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu, who came to the Likud's headquarters at Metzudat Ze'ev last night, said the Likud had preserved its power, and the two major parties had just "changed places" rather than changing the balance of power.

Netanyahu congratulated Terner, Olmert, Huldai, and Fireburg and

Election roundups, Pages 2, 3

said the government would work with all the mayors. However, he said the local elections are not an indication of the national situation.

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, who was in his party headquarters in Tel Aviv, said that "today is a victory for the citizens of Israel, who in some of the major towns received a worthy leadership. This is a leadership which gives top priority to education, weaker com-

munities, new immigrants, and concentrates on quality of life and the environment."

He hoped these elections would have an effect on the national ones. Terner thanked Netanyahu and said: "This is a beautiful city with a great potential and future."

Referring to the Likud's accusations that he was an outsider, Terner said "I've lived here for many years. I belong to the South, to the Negev, and to Beersheba."

Huldai said he was very pleased with the results, but cautioned: "It's only a poll. I'm glad three air force guys made it - myself, Terner, and [Benny] Kiryat in Tiberias. As for the results, I'm not surprised. We worked very hard."

According to the survey by Mina Zerah for Channel 2, based on 25 exit polls, Huldai got 50% in Tel Aviv; Doron Rubin (independent, backed by Netanyahu) 24%, and Shmuel Vilosny 14%.

See POLLS, Page 2

US warns 'time is running out' for Iraq

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Time is running out for Iraq to comply with UN arms inspections, the US said yesterday. It also said the aircraft carrier Enterprise is now speeding to the Gulf where another US carrier is based.

Defense Secretary William Cohen told reporters that President Bill Clinton had made no final decision on whether to launch US missile and bombing strikes against Iraq, but said impatience with President Saddam Hussein is growing.

"We have all indicated that time is running out," he said when asked if the US is drawing closer to attack. Iraq declared on October 31 that it will no longer cooperate with UN weapons inspectors.

"This can't go on forever. Diplomacy always should have

every opportunity to dance. But at some point, a dance has a beginning and an end," Cohen said at Pentagon press conference with visiting Singapore Defense Minister Tony Tan.

"The military option is still on the table," said Cohen, adding that he had ordered the Enterprise, which routinely left Norfolk Virginia, this week to replace the Eisenhower in the Gulf, to speed its transit and arrive on November 23 instead of November 26.

Cohen said he did not now plan to keep both carriers within striking distance of Iraq. The Eisenhower is winding up a six-month overseas deployment and is scheduled to return to Norfolk in early December.

The Marine helicopter carrier Belleau Wood is also heading to the Gulf from Japan to replace the helicopter carrier Essex and will arrive on November 26, Cohen added.

The US has about 170 warplanes and 21 ships in the Gulf region, including the Eisenhower and seven other ships capable of

launching long-range Tomahawk cruise missiles.

An eighth Tomahawk-armed ship, the cruiser Arzio, is moving toward the Gulf through the Red Sea.

Clinton again reviewed military and diplomatic options with Cohen and other senior advisers yesterday, as the US tried to determine the best response to Iraq's defiance of the UN.

White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said he did not expect the meeting to produce a decision on whether the US would resort to military action.

The US has seen no sign that Iraq is willing to budge on its refusal to cooperate with UN weapons inspectors and is preparing a military plan in the event no diplomatic solution can be reached.

In Baghdad, Iraq said it wants a peaceful solution. Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh said the key to ending the dispute is the lifting of sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait.

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NEWS

in brief

IAF hits Hizbullah

The IAF again struck at Hizbullah targets in south Lebanon early yesterday in what has become an almost daily occurrence in the past week. The IDF Spokesman said the pilots reported hits on targets, in the Jabal Soujoud region, and all the planes returned safely. On Monday, planes hit targets in the Yatar region.

In separate incidents later, gunmen fired mortars at IDF and South Lebanese Army outposts inside the zone. There were no casualties, although according to some reports a number of rounds hit a village in the eastern sector of the security zone, damaging a house.

David Rudge

Arafat invites Queen Elizabeth II for 2000

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday invited Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip to visit the Palestinian areas in honor of the millennium.

Arafat delivered the invitation during a meeting with the Duke of Kent, a cousin of the queen, who is on a three-day trade mission to Israel and the autonomous Palestinian areas.

Arafat said in his halting English that he asked the duke to "make a favor, to carry my best regards, and thanks from my heart to her majesty." Arafat said he has invited the queen and her husband "for the 2000 celebrations" in the Holy Land. AP

PA resumes dialogue with Islamic groups

The Palestinian Authority has renewed a high-level dialogue with Hamas and Islamic Jihad, apparently in an attempt to prevent a violent backlash.

Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar said "a meeting has taken place, but there are no results yet."

Imad Falouji, a former Hamas activist and member of the PA cabinet, suggested the aim was to work out a relationship in which Hamas and Islamic Jihad would be recognized as legitimate opposition groups. In exchange, the two groups would stop trying to sabotage the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords.

Mohammed Najib

CABINET

Continued from Page 1

No such assurance has been received, and Palestinian officials will say only that "the Wye Memorandum will be fulfilled to the letter." The memorandum, however, talks about "inviting" the PNC members to a meeting, at which the nullification will be "reaffirmed," but mentions neither a special convention nor a vote.

Netanyahu's spokesman Aviv Bushinsky said that, should the cabinet ratify the agreement, there would be an appendix to the ratification written up stating that "the continuation of implementation is conditional upon the PNC convening and voting on the Covenant, as obligated."

"We are eager to move forward with this," said a top official at the Prime Minister's Office. "So, instead of arguing now, we are making it very plain - vote in the PNC and we will continue with the process. Don't vote, and there will be no further withdrawal. They have a lot more to lose than we do, so we will see what happens."

A US official called the government's decision to go ahead with ratification in the absence of the PNC vote assurance a "face-saving measure," but expressed satisfaction that the process is moving forward.

If the agreement is approved by the cabinet, it will be presented to the Knesset tomorrow, and could, theoretically, be voted on immediately.

diately. A more likely scenario, however, is that the Knesset will vote on the agreement next Monday.

In any case, Netanyahu has already informed PA Chairman Yasser Arafat that the first redeployment from the West Bank - scheduled for November 16 - will take place a few days later than planned. This redeployment will be a 2% withdrawal from Area C (full Israeli control), in addition to a transfer of 7% from Area B (under joint Israeli-Palestinian control) to Area A (full Palestinian control). The rest of the 13% pullback is only scheduled to take place in the final stages of the implementation process - after the awaited PNC meeting.

The Palestinians, meanwhile, are continuing with their side of the bargain according with the original time frame. Chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said there are instructions from Arafat to move forward with implementation regardless of the Israeli ratification lag. So far, besides sharing their security working paper with the Americans, the Palestinians have nominated delegates to the nine interim committees and reaffirmed the nullification of the 26 offending Covenant sections in the PLO executive committee. Erekat added that the framework for illegal weapons collection would be ready today.

"The US appreciates the fact that, even on our own, we are moving forward with this process," said Erekat.

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Chairman of MISHAN and former Knesset member and expresses its sympathy to the family

Arab candidates in Jerusalem hampered by PA boycott

By ELLI WOHLGELER

Khatib Samin wasn't alone yesterday, but there weren't many more like him: He was an Arab in eastern Jerusalem who went to vote, despite pressure and threats to the contrary.

"It's important to add my voice to the Arab list," he said, after voting at a girls' school opposite Makassed Hospital on the Mount of Olives. Just minutes before, Arab youths' turned tires and threw stones to discourage Arabs from voting.

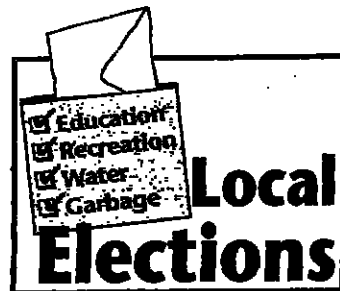
"The [Palestinian Authority] pressure doesn't bother me, because it's my belief that I have to do this, and my democratic right,

that my voice be heard. Their pressure is not smart - it's good to vote Arab people onto the city council."

But the call by Palestinian leaders for a boycott of the election and a general strike was obeyed by most east Jerusalem residents, despite the presence of Arabs running for the council.

"These are illegal elections because the annexation of east Jerusalem to Israel was illegal from the beginning," said Faisal Hussein, the PLO's top official in Jerusalem.

For municipal employees manning the voting booths in the Arab neighborhoods, and for party poll watchers as well, the boycott meant a long day with almost



nothing to do.

"These local elections are preposterous because there are more observers and technical people here than there are voters," said Bentzi Guetta, 24, a poll watcher for may-

oral candidate Shimon Shetreet, who was paid NIS 700 for his 14-hour day, which he spent reading *National Geographic*.

To illustrate the point, Guetta said that in his room, five people out of 900 registered voters had voted in the first eight hours of the day.

In the capital's Old City, the situation was the same. At the voting booth on St. Dimitri's Road just inside Jaffa Gate, university students sat reading books, sipping soda, and eating sandwiches.

At one table, Noga Van Gelderen sat knitting a kippa.

"I'm extremely bored, but I knew I would be," said the 21-year-old, who immigrated from Seattle.

Washington, 11 years ago. Van Gelderen, who was paid NIS 500 as a poll watcher for the National Religious Party, said her room had the highest number of voters because it was the voting hall for residents of the Jewish Quarter, 75 of whom voted in the first six hours, out of 900 registered. In the room next door, only 11 people voted, out of 850 registered.

Shabael Badwan, 20, a poll watcher for the Arab list, said that "the strike made it tough [for Arabs] to vote, because the buses and cabs aren't running and people can't get to the polls. It's not good for us - we don't want this, we just want peace, we just want to get on with our lives."

Projected results according to Channel 2 straw poll

CITY	MAYOR	%
Jerusalem	Ehud Olmert (Likud)	58%
Tel Aviv	Ron Huldai (Labor)	50%
Haifa	Amram Mitzna (Labor)	64%
Beersheba	Ya'acov Turner (Labor)	58%
Rishon	Meir Nitán (Labor)	64%
Netanya	Miriam Fireburg (Likud)	49%
Tiberias	Benny Kiryati (Likud)	58%

POLLS

Continued from Page 1

In Beersheba, Turner got 58% and Bunfeld 40%. Olmert got 58% in Jerusalem, while Labor's Shimon Shetreet got only 24%. Mitzna got almost 70% of the vote in Haifa compared to Amos Eden's 17%.

In Beit She'an, the polls indicated that Geshet's Jackie Levy received 44.7%. Pinhas Kabbalo of Labor, who received Rabbi Yitzhak Kadouri's blessing, was close behind with 44.1%.

In Tiberias the Likud's Kiryati got 58%, to the disappointment of Shas, whose candidate Zvika Cohen received only 42%.

An unusually low turnout - an average of about 35% - trickled to the polls at the end of an election campaign which, although marred by violence, left a large majority of voters indifferent.

The campaign was filled with violent incidents. Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani was attacked by a group of supporters of council head Shlomo Buchbut when he visited a candidate of his Third Way party at a polling station in Ma'alot-Tarshiha.

Former Shas MK Moshe Maya said yesterday that despite Huldai's emphatic promises, he had reached an agreement with Shas to "keep Tel Aviv Jewish."

The coalition agreement between Huldai and Meretz was based on Huldai's promise not to make a deal with Shas. Meretz's candidate for mayor, Michael Ro'eh, stepped down two weeks before the election and called on his supporters to vote for Huldai.

Maya said "we made a deal with Huldai that he keep Tel Aviv a Jewish city, and that's why we recommended that our supporters vote for him. He promised there would be no public transport on Shabbat, that sanitation workers won't work on Shabbat, and shops won't be open on Shabbat and holidays. As for cinemas operating on Shabbat, there's nothing we can do."

Olmert denounced the PA election boycott in Jerusalem, saying it contributed to an atmosphere of crises and confrontation.

"In democracy you vote," Olmert said after casting his ballot in the morning in a school right next door to his house. "Arafat is not used to a democratic system, and that's perhaps the reason why he urged them not to vote. He doesn't understand that in democratic societies the vote of the individual in a secret ballot is what counts, and not the threat of a gun."

Labor Party candidate Shimon Shetreet said he respected the voters' decision, but would continue his fight for Jerusalem. "I intend to fight for my principles in the opposition, and I'll do everything to insure that Jerusalem does not give priority to one sector over another," he said.

As of 9 p.m., 43% of Jerusalem residents had voted. Exit poll results in Haifa showed Mitzna being swept back into office with a majority of over 60%.

The polls, however, were less clear about whether the city would retain its "Red Haifa" image and its Labor majority on the 31-seat city council.

Mitzna's nearest rival, Eden, heading the Haifa for Haifa list, won around 17% of the vote according to the sample surveys.

In the Labor Party offices, there was jubilation over Mitzna's sizeable win, coupled with concern that the party might not retain its majority because of strong competition from the green list and Dor Shalem.

The interim results in Tiberias showed Kiryati, an independent affiliated with the Likud, beating Shas candidate Zvika Cohen, heading a combined list supported by Labor.

The campaign in Tiberias was characterized by attempts to turn the election into a vote along religious-secular lines, despite the mixed list led by Cohen.

The election was seen as a litmus test for Shas's chances of also winning secular, as well as religious votes, which according to the exit poll results did not happen.

In Beit She'an, where there has been a close and sometimes acrimonious campaign between Jackie Levy, son of Geshet leader MK David Levy and Labor-affiliated independent list headed by Pini Kabbalo, the exit poll showed a close result favoring Levy.

One of the most clear-cut wins, however, appeared to be in Nazareth, where the exit polls showed a comfortable victory for incumbent Mayor Ramez Jeraise and his Hadash list over the United Nazareth Bloc list headed by the Islamic Movement's Salman Abu Ahmed.

Hadash activists held an impromptu victory celebration with Jeraise at the party's headquarters in the Moslem-Christian Arab city last night.

A smiling Jeraise said the result was a victory for the people who had voted to keep the city united and not split along religious or ethnic lines.

A victory was scored last night in Netanya for women in Israeli politics, as well as for the Likud Party, as Likud candidate Fireburg appeared assured of becoming the first female mayor of a major city here.

Exit polls found Fireburg garnering more than 40% of the vote, leading by a substantial margin ahead of her two challengers - Moti Hod of the Labor Party and Yoel Elroy, the former Likud mayor of Netanya, who ran in this election as an independent candidate. Hod and Elroy trailed with less than a quarter of the vote.

Another female candidate who made an unusually strong showing in a municipal race for mayor was Yael German of Herzliya, whose showing was strong against candidates Haim Peled, an independent candidate with Labor backing, and Yehuda Urieli, who ran with the support of the Likud.

A fierce battle is likely to take place in a second round of voting in that city, as late exit polls showed that the three candidates split most of the Herzliya vote almost identically.

Elli Wohlgelemer, Mohammed Najib, David Rudge, Allison Kaplan Sommer and news agencies contributed to this report.



Sephardic sage Rabbi Yitzhak Kadouri leaves the voting booth during yesterday's polling in Jerusalem. (Reuters)

ANALYSIS

Continued from Page 1

To apply the criteria of national politics to any of the local races is an exercise in futility. The issues had nothing to do with existential decisions, with the territories or with the war against terror.

A party's fortune in a given town had more to do with its success in finding a personable local candidate than with the popularity of its national leader. Local peculiarities, family and personal affiliations and interests determined more than one's position on the Wye deal.

This despite the fact that just on the eve of polling day the two major contenders in the national arena - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Labor chairman Ehud Barak - went through the motions of drumming up support for the home town boys.

Thus any attempt to regard yesterday's vote as a mid-term referendum for the prime minister or as a popularity poll for his opposition is invalid.

Local elections always had a logic of their own. This is all the more so since the balloting was separated from the general elections.

The direct elections for prime minister further helped erode party frameworks. But even long ago, when the country was politically monolithic, local trends defied national ones. When Mapai rule seemed unassailable, Tel Aviv, for instance, did not always elect a Mapai mayor.

The only generalized conclusions which can be drawn from some local races pertain to technicalities and the smaller national lists. The local elections, to some minor extent, may indicate how well oiled a local party's election day machinery is. This can be vitally important in getting supporters to the polls in a local as well as in a national election. This

is especially significant in the smaller localities.

The high turnout in Arab towns is explained by tight family connections and this is true of development towns as well. In the large cities apathy reigned supreme. The only exceptions are in religious and ethnic communities.

These are advantages Shas exploits well, a fact which may increase its representation in city councils and may presage its ability to gain an even greater Knesset mandate. Shas, however, failed to win the single mayorality it sought - in Tiberias.

Yesterday's elections were also important for the small parties vying in them for the first time. This, for instance, was Geshet's debut in local elections, though it competed in the Histadrut elections earlier this year.

Starting from zero, Geshet cannot lose, but yesterday's results did not provide David Levy with anything to crow about, despite his son's promising showing in the family's home base of Beit Shean.

Yisrael Ba'aliya and the Third Way are also taking part in local races for the first time and their leaders will spend the next few days analyzing local council returns to see if they can indicate anything about their staying power.

But they won't indicate much because of what the voter saw in the polling booth. The ballots for the local councils bore few of the symbols featured in the Knesset race. In some cases the big parties camouflaged themselves or ran on more than one ticket. But most ballots were local concoctions which signify little about who will be the next prime minister.

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SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Joan Sheransky will speak on Project Impact. Gan Hatzema.

LUPIN 1520

Dor Shalem makes its mark in Tel Aviv

By HEIDI J. GLEIT

Dor Shalem activists blanketed Tel Aviv yesterday, manning tables by nearly 100 of the 514 polling stations.

While activists at the Dor Shalem campaign headquarters were working frantically to get their message out to all parts of the city, and to make sure that the hundreds of volunteers they stationed around the city got some sort of dinner delivered to them, the volunteers on the street were a bit more relaxed. Though passersby did occasionally stop to ask them questions or pick up a pamphlet, the Dor Shalem volunteers around Rehov Sheinkin spent a lot more time talking with the youths some of the other parties had hired to hand out information.

Still, the Dor Shalem volunteers were much more enthusiastic than Sivan Falaba and Inbal Hoshait,

two 16-year-olds Ron Huldai's campaign had hired to hand out pamphlets in front of the polling station at the Balfour State School. Both teens said that they preferred the Likud's Doron Rubin to Huldai.

Dor Shalem, which campaign coordinator Gil Holtzman said is hoping to win four or five seats on the city council and is supporting Huldai, also may have been more organized than the Tel Aviv Elections Committee. Some 60 polling stations were still closed at 7 a.m. because no one showed up to open them.

"The election committee staff wasn't stationed at 10 percent of the polling stations. We immediately recruited new workers and the stations opened," committee chairman Abie Ne'eman explained to him. "The age of voluntarism has passed. The only way to correct [this morning's problem] is to

change the outdated laws."

Huldai's campaign headquarters also was quite disorganized yesterday morning, because vandals torched the telephone exchange serving it around 4:30 a.m. The headquarters had to rely on cellular telephones until noon, said Ya'acov Meir, manager of campaign headquarters.

The activists' and politicians best efforts didn't stir many Tel Aviv residents, who said they weren't voting because they don't like politics or because they don't like any of the candidates.

"Why should I vote? Politicians are all liars and cheats, they promise, promise and promise and don't do anything. They just want the seat. Chich [former mayor Shlomo Lahat] promised and left. Ronni Milo promised and left, and so will the next one, whoever it is," said Yitzhak Albahari, who has a stall in the Carmel Market.

80-year-old man dies after polling station altercation

Disruptions up over 1993

By NINA GILBERT and Itim

The number of election disruptions was slightly higher this year compared with the 1993 elections, the police said yesterday.

"Most of the incidents were not serious, but constituted a violation of public order required for elections," a police spokesman said.

By late yesterday evening, more than 270 incidents requiring police involvement had been recorded. The majority, 135, occurred in the North, with 41 in the South, 38 in Jerusalem, 25 in Tel Aviv, and 39 in the center of the country.

A police spokesman said that 13 people had been arrested, and that there had been 41 incidents of violent attacks around the country, in which four policemen were injured.

Insp.-Gen. Yehuda Wilk said that before the polls opened, there had been some 300 violent incidents

during the campaign.

According to Wilk, this year's election campaign was more violent than in the past and included more incidents of vandalism and property damage.

In Eilat, a campaign activist, Eli Sisso, was stabbed twice in the back during a fight with a member of the Shas worker. Sisso was attacked near the Shas headquarters, but police said he refused to file a complaint.

In Kfar Yafiya, near Nazareth, an 80-year-old man died of a heart attack after he was involved in an altercation in a polling station.

In Jisr e-Zarka, near Caesarea, threats were issued against an



election official, who was put under police protection.

In Tiberias, a bomb threat against a school where voting was taking place was called into police.

However, searches did not uncover anything.

In Taiba, a polling station chairman attacked an election committee member. The attacker and two other people were arrested, and two people involved in the incident needed medical attention.

A Shas activist attacked a National Religious Party activist near a polling station in Herzliya.

Beersheba police received threats against the No. 2 on may-

oral candidate Ya'acov Termer's list.

The tires of two cars of activists campaigning for Or Yehuda mayoral candidate Yitzhak Bukovza were slashed.

Other non-violent incidents around the country included attempts to commit election fraud.

In Jerusalem, a man who tried to vote with a forged ID card at a haredi school was arrested and another suspect fled the scene, leaving his ID card behind. At the Habad school, a few people tried to take photographs inside the polling booth and were removed from the scene by police.

In east Jerusalem, two people who tried to prevent others from voting were arrested.

The deputy head of the polling committee in Shfarim was arrested after he tried to distribute envelopes containing ballot slips outside the polling station.

In Ra'anana, polls proceed peacefully

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

While violent incidents occurred in some municipalities and utter indifference characterized others, election day in Ra'anana proceeded in a peaceful and uneventful manner. Yet voters seemed engaged, and the supporters of various candidates were busy getting people to the polls.

In front of the Alon school where voting was taking place, activists supporting Mayor Ze'ev Bielski and his challenger Yossi Olmert, not only refrained from verbal or physical violence, they greeted one another with friendly familiarity.

"These are our neighbors, we've grown up together," explained Bielski activist Nissim Avraham. "There's no reason not to behave in a civilized way." Avraham said that he believed in the combination of Bielski and Likud leader Uzi Cohen in order to "keep things going in Ra'anana the way they have. We have a beautiful town, nice parks, great schools, why would we want to change anything?" So did he think municipal life in Ra'anana was perfect?

"Well, I'd say it's 95 percent perfect." All of the voters approached were casting their mayoral ballots for Bielski, either because they wanted to preserve the status quo, or in reaction to the campaign of challenger Rina Bar Tal, who angered the religious community with her campaign vowing to "Stop the Haredim" and accusing Bielski of selling out to haredi interests.

One voter in a knitted kippa who asked not to be identified said "he was voting against Bar Tal as much as he was voting for Bielski. 'I truly hope she loses by a large margin and that the Labor Party loses in the city council



Ra'anana voter Sue Friedman casts her ballot.

(Israel Sun)

race and that people draw the proper conclusions. She ran a dirty campaign with a vicious smear against the mayor."

But Bielski's support seemed to cut across party lines. Jeans-clad

Lynore Blum, 22, said just before she entered the voting booth that "while I'm a Labor supporter and frankly, would like to see more places in town open on Shabbat, I'm not voting for Bar Tal. I just

don't think she can do as good a job running the town as Bielski's done." Blum said that she had decided to support the current mayor and vote her ideological beliefs in her city council choice.

Lottery draw in Haifa brings out the voters

By DAVID RUDGE

The fact that voting day for the municipal elections happened to coincide with the weekly Mifal Hapayis lottery draw - with a top prize of NIS 25 million - may have been instrumental in getting people out of their homes yesterday.

It might also explain why in Haifa, where election campaign fever has been conspicuous by its absence, there were more people on the streets and at the polling booths than had been expected.

"Overall, I would say that people are more interested in the lottery than in the local elections," said Yair Melamed, whose store in Haifa's French Carmel, which also sells lottery tickets, was inundated with customers.

"The elections in Haifa this year are even less interesting than previously, because there's only one realistic candidate for mayor - the incumbent mayor [Amram Mitzna]," said Melamed.

"The vote for the city council, however, is more interesting,

because there is the Green list, as well as Dor Shalem Doresh Shalom," he said.

Another local resident, Yitzhak Grottas, said that despite the advent of different parties, Haifa was likely to remain a Labor Party city.

"Maybe Labor will have more competition in 10 years time or so, but for the time being it will remain a Labor stronghold, mainly because of the voting habits of the older residents," he said.

Grottas also said the election campaign this year had been relatively mundane.

"I think that as far as some people are concerned, if it wasn't for the television, radio and newspapers, they wouldn't even know there were elections," he said.

Nevertheless, last-minute canvassing took place in the city, with mayoral candidates visiting key places and polling booths, as well as supporters of the various lists.

Labor Party leader MK Ehud Barak made a visit to Haifa in support of Mitzna and Labor's

list, and the two toured the Talpiot market in the city's Hadar quarter.

Mitzna, whom surveys have predicted would be re-elected by an overwhelming majority, said his main concern was that there would be a big voter turnout.

He said he was also hoping that Labor, which until yesterday held 13 of the 31 seats on the city council compared to five of its nearest rivals, the Likud, would retain its plurality.

The biggest threat to Mitzna's reelection as mayor appeared to be from Amos Eden, chairman of the northern branch works committee of the Israel Electric Corporation, who is heading the Haifa for Haifa list.

One of the most prominent of all the lists in canvassing in the past few days, however, was Dor Shalom.

Supporters, who said they were all volunteers, could be seen throughout the city, and near virtually every voting station in the main areas yesterday. They had set up a table shaded by large umbrellas with at least one activist present.

Nazareth main focus of Arab voting

By DAVID RUDGE

The battle for control of Nazareth - the country's biggest Arab city - was the prime focus of attention in the municipal elections in the Arab sector yesterday.

Election fever was in the air and on the streets of the city, which has a population of over 50,000 composed of around two-thirds Moslems and the remainder Christian Arabs.

The fundamentalist Islamic Movement, heading a United Nazareth Bloc list, has mounted a major bid to try and wrest the reins of power from the predominantly secular Hadash Party, which has controlled the city for the past 23 years.

Supporters of the two main candidates, incumbent Mayor Ramez

Jeraise (Hadash) and his Islamic Movement opponent Salman Abu Ahmed, and their respective lists, were out in force.

Canvassing continued until the very last minutes, with both parties using vans and cars to take supporters to the polling booths.

"Some analysts took the view that the high percentage voter turnout in Nazareth would be to the advantage of the United Nazareth Bloc headed by the Islamic Movement's candidates, while others said it would benefit Hadash," said Dr. Elie Rekhess of Tel Aviv University's Program on Arab Politics in Israel, co-sponsored by the Adenauer Foundation. "We will only truly know when all of the votes have been counted."

Another interesting race was taking place in nearby Sufaram in the

Galilee between incumbent Mayor Ibrahim Nimr Hussein, who has held the office for over two decades, and local independent candidates.

Nimr Hussein is also chairman of the forum of Arab Council Heads and the supreme monitoring committee of the Israeli Arab leadership, which is composed of Arab MKs, leaders of local authorities and other groups, as well as prominent public figures.

"Nimr Hussein, known also as Abu Harem, is seen as a compromise figure among the various political parties, independents and other factions and he has held them all together," said Rekhess. "Were he to lose his seat, Arab council heads and political leaders would find it difficult to elect a similar figure around whom they could unite."

Posters help candidates, but deface country

By LIAT COLLINS

The local election campaigns have been both dirty and expensive and the Public Works Department has spent NIS1.8 million in the last month cleaning up posters and graffiti on the interurban roads, said PWD spokesman Meir Gazit yesterday.

"Apart from the fact that for the most part these posters are not aesthetic, they are often dangerous," Gazit said. "We have found posters stuck on stop signs... And more importantly since we only have limited manpower, taking them down requires diverting the regular maintenance teams whose job should be to deal with holes in the road, gaps in the fencing and fallen signs as well as preparing the roads for winter conditions."

Gazit said that the police closed nearly all the PWD complaints

under the Anti-Litter Law and laws on damaging public property "for lack of public interest."

"Even when charges are pressed, it costs us a lot in time preparing testimonies and making court appearances," he said.

"I don't even know what the point of most of these posters, signs and graffiti are since local elections are truly local and there seems no reason for them to spread onto intercity roads," said Gazit.

Although Gazit could not estimate the quantity of signs and posters collected he said it is enough to justify issuing a tender for companies interested in recycling the plastic sheeting and metal poles. "We have mountains of them gathered up," he said.

He also complained of the amount of litter in the streets with in towns, which does not fall under the PWD's jurisdiction.

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Cyprus upset at PM's remark

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

The government of Cyprus was offended by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's remark that Israel will "bring the two suspected spies back," a Cypriot source said yesterday.

"It could have been phrased differently," the source said. "It didn't go down well... I'm sure he didn't mean an Entebbe-style operation. He was probably speaking generally."

In Jerusalem, an official at the Prime Minister's Office clarified that no offense was intended. "All that was meant by such phrases is that we're always eager to help Israeli citizens who get into trouble abroad," the official said.

The Cypriot media criticized Netanyahu's remarks, sparking a response from Justice Minister Nicos Koshis. He responded that the Israelis are in police custody and investigations are continuing. On

their completion, it will be for the courts to decide on the future handling of the case.

"Such statements are provocative, arrogant, and stupid and do not promote good relations between Israel and Cyprus," the daily *Alithia* said in an editorial. The paper is considered pro-Israeli, according to AP.

Koshis said there have been no talks between Cyprus and Israel on any release of the two men arrested on Saturday in a rented tourist apartment in the fishing village of Ziyi, AP reported.

A police statement said the two are suspected of spying on the Cypriot army and that cameras, recordings of police radio messages, radio scanners, and maps were found in the apartment.

The two, identified as Yigal Damary and Udi Hargov, were carrying sophisticated equipment, a source said. Among the countries which have such equipment are America, Israel, and Turkey, he said.

Cyprus losing patience with Israeli attitude

In January 1997, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told a visiting Peace Now delegation that he could not release the alleged Israeli spy Azzam Azzam because domestic public opinion would see him as weakly yielding to Israeli pressure.

"His arrest was not publicized by the Egyptian media," said Mubarak. "It would have been much easier if [Israel] didn't publicize the whole issue. Now that there is a trial, I cannot intervene."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has now put Cyprus in the same position, according to official sources in Nicosia, seriously complicating the Cypriot government's room for maneuver in the latest spy scandal.

"Every Israeli citizen is important to us. We will look into this and will certainly bring them home," Netanyahu said in remarks broadcast on Army Radio.

"This has caused an absolute furor in Cyprus," a Cypriot official said in a telephone conversation. "It's as if he's hinting at an Entebbe-style raid or some such. Cyprus is not a banana republic, we cannot tolerate this attitude."

The prime minister's statement will need urgent clarification if the hands of the Cypriot authorities are not to be tied by domestic public opinion, say diplomats.

Greek Cypriot newspapers yesterday were referring to Israel as "a regional bully that has teamed up with another bully, Turkey," and proclaiming that "Cyprus is not a doormat."

Cypriot Ambassador Euripedes Evriades said justice must now take its course in the case of the two mysterious suspects, named as Udi Hargov and Yigal Damary and now being held at separate locations in Nicosia. "Remember, they are innocent until proven guilty," he said, but declined to comment on Netanyahu's statement.

Official Cypriot sources, however, say that while the prime minister's comments may have been misinterpreted in Cyprus, domestic anger is such that the government cannot be seen as giving in to any pressure, nor can it interfere with

the justice system.

"If the two had been spying on Arabs or Iranians, as in other such incidents, we could say we don't like it - but OK, there's room for a legal solution," one official said.

"But Cypriots are concerned these two may have been spying for the power that invaded and occupies half their country."

Officials said even if the duo had turned out to be "cowboys" freelancing for Turkey, the incident might have blown over. "It is unusual for Mossad agents we catch in Cyprus to be using Israeli passports," said one official. "But some things concerned us. Israel did not deny at once that they are Mossad agents; the scanners they had were third-generation stuff - very sophisticated and only in use in four or five countries. And then Netanyahu says he will get them home. Maybe the dry text of his words is less strong, but the intonation, the way it comes across, has made Cyprus angry."

The incident has awakened the worst Cypriot fears about Israel's strategic alliance with Turkey, Defense Minister Yiannakis Omirou said that "Cyprus is concerned by the military alliance... If the two arrested Israelis are Mossad agents, this will create a grave political issue and have serious repercussions."

"We are not paranoid," an official said, "maybe a little neurotic sometimes, but what is perceived to be real is sometimes real. We have incursions into our air space, there are offshore Israeli-Turkish exercises, now this. We are a democracy under occupation, our public opinion is very strong."

Officials said they admitted it may be seen as unfair to single out Israel for harsh criticism, since it is only one of four or five other countries very friendly with Turkey.

"But we are being hit over the head by this. And Israel too can get hit over the head," the source said. "The creation of one axis leads to the creation of a counter-axis. Because of its recent trouble with Turkey, Syria has opened its Iraq border. When did that last happen?"

MKs prepare to debate Wye accords

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset is likely to discuss the Wye Memorandum either today or tomorrow even if the government does not conclude the approval process.

MK Ophir Pines (Labor) has filed a motion to the agenda on the agreement and on the differences between the English original and the Hebrew summary produced by cabinet secretary Dan Naveh.

At the end of the debate, after a member of the government has responded, a vote will be taken on whether to drop the motion from the agenda or forward it to the

Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee for further deliberation.

The Knesset spokesman last night clarified that the debate would be on the delay in bringing the agreement to the Knesset. The discussion and vote on the agreement itself will only take place after the cabinet has approved it and after the prime minister has presented it in an address in the plenum, the spokesman said.

Pines, referring to the agreement, said: "It is scandalous that it has not yet been presented to the Knesset or discussed in committee."

"And if this is the only way of

making it happen, that's what we'll do. It looks like the prime minister is going to continue ignoring and scorning the Knesset [for] a long time so the Knesset should discuss the agreement even if not at the government's initiative."

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has canceled for the third week running his scheduled appearance in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee to discuss the agreement. Last week, opposition and coalition MKs united in blasting both the agreement and Netanyahu's attitude toward the committee.

According to Pines, Uzi Landau

(Likud), who chairs the committee, has promised to help muster the support necessary for the motion to be passed on for further discussion.

Meanwhile, MK Abdul Wahab Darawshe (Democratic Arab Party) has said his faction will support the bills calling for an early election if the coalition insists on bringing them to first reading on Monday.

Darawshe said the government is not doing enough to implement the Wye agreement and his party has asked that the vote on the bills be postponed by two weeks to examine the progress of implementation.

If DAP considers the progress to be insufficient, it will support the bills, Darawshe said.

The MKs who proposed the bills - Labor's Haim Ramon and Rannan Cohen and Meretz whip Haim Oron - on Sunday demanded that the vote on the bills be postponed despite the fact that until last week they had urged their speedy passage.

The change came after DAP MKs said they would not support the bills because it could hinder the peace process. National Religious Party MKs have yet to announce their stand. The bills require the support of 61 MKs to pass.

Settlers to protest against Wye

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Thousands of settlers from Judea, Samaria and Gaza are expected to attend a rally in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square tonight and warn the government that they will not stand by and allow "portions of the heartland of Israel" to be given over to Palestinian rule.

The decision to hold the rally was opposed by some of the members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza who feel that the public they represent is tired of going out into the streets.

Very few have actually seen the map depicting the second West Bank redeployment. Others are more concerned over the safe passages that will allow Palestinians to travel freely from Gaza to the West Bank.

Many observed that judging from the IDF preparations including electrified fences, close circuit television monitoring and tank traps, "Anyone would think they were preparing for war instead of peace," one council member said.

Ya'acov Even, the secretary of the 50-family settlement Ganim and 40-family settlement Kadim near Jericho, stressed that many of the residents in the communities were bitter that no one from the government or IDF had bothered to meet with them.

"If the government declares we will have to leave for the sake of peace I believe residents will agree only if an alternative community is found and compensation given," declared Even.

At the 80-family settlement of Yitzhar, secretary Raphael Miron said members will not allow anything to interfere with their daily routine. Because it is a deeply ideological community, Miron said he believed that the majority of Yitzhar members will attend the rally tonight. Members will do everything within the law to strengthen the community and that includes taking over land allotted to the settlement. "I am not going to divulge details, but we believe that the time to do it is now. Once the redeployment is implemented we won't be able to take such steps," he said.

AP adds: Dozens of Palestinians yesterday blocked a bulldozer trying to pave a bypass road for settlers for which 160 dunams of Arab land were confiscated. After several hours, the soldiers decided to halt work on the road for one week to give sides time to resolve the dispute in court.



Rabbi Haskel Besser (right) and Hirsch Kornreih, the sole survivor from the pre-war Jewish community of Oswiecim, listen to speeches during the ceremony rededicating a synagogue there yesterday. (Reuters)

Synagogue near Auschwitz rededicated

OSWIECIM (AP) - Polish, Israeli and American officials, joined representatives in a private foundation yesterday to rededicate the synagogue near Auschwitz, nearly 60 years after it was confiscated by the Nazis.

"Our goal is to recreate a permanent structure symbolizing Jewish life in a place which for too many years has only represented Jewish death," says Fred Schwartz, founder of the Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation.

The New York City-based foundation is carrying out restoration of the synagogue in Oswiecim in southern Poland.

The Lomdei Mishnayot Synagogue was used until 1939, when Nazi troops entered Poland. After World War II, it was seized by the communists.

In March, Polish authorities returned the small, turn-of-the-century building, to the local Jewish community, the first facility to be restored under a government program to provide restitution of former Jewish religious property.

Journalist Konstanty Gebert, a Jewish leader in Warsaw, called the rededication of the synagogue "good news for Jews." "Thanks to this place Jews will not feel as strangers in a strange city," he said.

The American foundation is collecting funds to renovate the synagogue, which until recently was used as a carpet warehouse.

An adjoining building is to become a museum and cultural center for the study of Jewish history in Poland.

Schwartz expects restoration work to take up to two years and cost some \$10 million.

Before the war, 7,000 Jews worshipped at a dozen synagogues in Oswiecim, a town of 11,000 people, where the Nazis built Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp during World War II.

The Nazis destroyed the other 11 synagogues in the town, which now has only one Jewish resident, an elderly man.

More than 1.5 million people, 90 percent of them Jewish, perished in gas chambers or died of starvation and diseases at the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp complex, the most notorious Nazi death factory.

The rededication ceremony also coincided with the 60th anniversary of Kristallnacht, when the Nazis set fire to hundreds of synagogues and attacked Jews in Germany and Austria, in a night of terror signaling the start of the Holocaust.

Israel moves to boost Palestinian use of Ashdod port

By ABIEH O'SULLIVAN

In an effort to boost Palestinian trade through Ashdod, Israel is to allow Palestinian merchants to rent warehouses near its port and has agreed to examine other steps to cut costs for exporters from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

This was decided during a meeting yesterday in the port of Ashdod with over 50 top Palestinian businessmen. The meeting was organized by the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories.

"It was a very positive meeting. The aim was for us to hear their problems and to create direct links between them and the port officials. We want to encourage these people to export as much as they can," said Shlomo Dror, spokesman for the coordinator of activities.

The Palestinians who came were owners of some of the largest factories in the West Bank. They were also joined by Palestinian Authority Trade and Industry Ministry officials, Dror said.

Two diplomats from the American embassy in Tel Aviv also attended.

The Palestinian Authority has plans to build its own seaport in Gaza as part of the economic and symbolic infrastructure of its envisioned independent state.

According to Dror, imports to the West Bank from Jordan last month totaled \$40 million, more than double the \$17 million during October 1997. Dror said that the recent UNESCO report on the Palestinian economy showed a 6 percent increase in GDP, higher than natural growth which was interpreted to mean there was more money.

"There is also an increase in exports and we want to encourage this even more," Dror said.

The main Palestinian exports are stones and marble, metal and plastic pipes, fruit and vegetables, shoes, cardboard boxes and furniture.

Dror said that security objections to Palestinians renting warehouses near the port had recently been lifted and that merchants from the territories would now be allowed to rent them and store their produce close by. This is expected to shorten the time ships are in port and save money.

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Agency warns of Russian antisemitism

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

When a Communist member of the Duma recently said to the Russian parliament "Let's beat the Jews and save Russia," the Duma was unable to find a majority to condemn the statement, according to Chaim Chesler, co-chairman of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Committee.

Chesler raised the issue of rising Russian antisemitism in an appearance yesterday before a joint session of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors' Former Soviet Union and Immigration and Absorption Committee's meeting on "Russia in Turmoil."

"We should eliminate the Jews according to the list of names, and if something happens to me I'll take 10 of the kikes with me," the Communist parliamentarian said, according to Alla Levy, head of the agency's mission to Russia, who also reported on the incident.

"There was a very weak response to it, and after this response a large number of members of parliament, mainly from the Communist Party, applied to the attorney-general saying that it is not this member of parliament who should be brought to trial, but those Jews who have played a role in this [economic and political] crisis," she said.

She noted that the government and other public bodies were slow to condemn the remarks, reacting only when the attacks were made not only on Jews, but on journalists as well.

"World public opinion must pay attention to the growth and the

kind of antisemitism that is developing there," she said, adding that "even in the 1970s we didn't notice the kind of antisemitism that has started now."

Levy noted that the current rise in antisemitism, sparked by economic and political instability, began in September when a Jewish writer sent an open letter to the nation's Jewish bankers, published in a popular newspaper, "asking them to return the money they had earned to the people whom they robbed."

The letter "shocked" the Russian Jewish community, but it was followed by another letter, written by a professor of education, accusing the Jews and the Jewish deputy education minister at the time, who has since resigned — of poisoning the Russian education system.

"If antisemitism was not a factor [until now in Jews deciding to leave], today, because of the economic crisis, antisemitism in Russia has a much higher profile than ever before," Chesler said.

Describing the situation among potential Russian immigrants, Levy described the large surge in interest among Russian Jews she said has been caused more by political instability than even Russia's economic unrest.

She said that while the peak of those studying in the Moscow ulpan in 1997-98 had been in March, when 790 were enrolled, some 1,000 were already studying in the ulpan by October of this school year and the number was increasing constantly.

Students reject PM's proposal

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Negotiations among striking students, Moshe Leon, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, and Treasury officials will continue this morning, focusing on a proposal made by Leon yesterday aimed at "reducing the financial burden" on the students, but not lowering tuition.

However, the students, who are seeking a 50 percent reduction in tuition, continue to reject the proposal which they say only helps about 2,500 poor students, but ignores the others.

"We're looking for a plan to help tens of thousands of students," student spokesman Shmuelik Algrabi, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu himself took part in the latter stages of the negotiations. According to his spokesman, he told them to open marathon talks based on Leon's proposal to final details and resolve the dispute.

Algrabi said that while the students are happy that "the prime minister finally took part personally in the discussions," the proposal in its current form is unacceptable.

A source close to the talks said that part of the package being discussed with the students is similar to the proposal they raised earlier, which would widen the current scope of programs in which students do various types of public service in exchange for reduced tuition.

Leon's proposal calls for "significantly increasing loans to students this year in exchange for public service by the students."

Loans to students will be increased to include up to half of tuition, to be returned when the students begin working, and additional assistance in providing dormitory space for students, a



Sara Netanyahu visits striking students at their protest tent outside the prime minister's residence yesterday.

(Flash 90)

spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office said.

However, he added that there would be no across-the-board reduction of tuition.

"We came to them with what we consider is a revolutionary idea," Algrabi said. "This idea really found favor with Leon. Students who want to do so would volunteer at hospitals or doing other

similar work for the benefit of society for three hours. We both see this as a social breakthrough. We get something and offer something in return."

He added that Treasury officials were opposed to the idea.

Algrabi said one idea to counter Treasury complaints that this would still require additional budgets would have each ministry

aided by students put up its own funding for the tuition cuts.

"Anyone who doesn't want to do it, and has the money, will pay full tuition," he said, "and it seems socially just."

Students, meanwhile, continued their hunger strike outside the prime minister's residence to press their demands for a 50 percent tuition cut.

Among those visiting them was Sara Netanyahu, who came down to their tent. Earlier in the day, some of the hunger strikers and their supporters had written to her seeking her support.

Overall, negotiations with the Prime Minister's Office have been going far better than those with the Treasury, Algrabi added.

Itim contributed to this report.

Court orders J'lem to answer councilwoman

By ELLI WOHLGELANTER

The High Court of Justice has chastised the Jerusalem Municipality for its failure to respond to a request for information from city councilwoman Anat Hoffman (Meretz).

"Public servants should know that their job is to serve the broad public and members of the council, and it is their legal and public obligation to respond to letters that are written to them," said the court in its ruling Monday, which was signed by Justices Mishael Cheshin, Yitzhak Zamir, and Meir

Ilan.

"It is inconceivable, and we will not accept, that a member of the council will write to an official of the municipality, whatever his rank, and that official will not respond to him or her. We are not talking about the substance of the response, but about the obligation to respond to the writer. This is elementary manners, and this is what is required of a public official, and this is what the law requires," Hoffman said she had requested a report being prepared showing changes in the city's schools, particularly regarding the

decline in secular education.

"Since February, they haven't been willing to give me the material," she said. "Supposedly it hasn't been finished yet, but I claimed that I deserved to see even unfinished documents — I wanted to see each and every school, how it grew and how it shrunk."

Hoffman said she received some 40 pages of raw data yesterday, and was guaranteed more by the court.

"Any objective numbers, any demographic predictions, anything having to do with data of the city's education department will

come to Hoffman's knowledge whenever it comes to the department. When complete, it will be given to Hoffman at the same time as the mayor," the court said in its decision.

A spokesman for the city said that Hoffman received "the exact statistics she received at the beginning of the year — a book with all the number of classes, which she had already."

Moreover, he said, Hoffman had asked the court to be shown "drafts in the making, but the court said only when it's finished, not in-between drafts."

New vaccine could fight viral disease, bio-weapons

By JUDY SIEGEL

Jerusalem researchers have developed synthetic vaccines that could eventually immunize masses of people against emerging viral diseases and biological weapons.

The vaccines are in the form of a skin ointment or an oral pill modeled on strains of the herpes virus that evoked an immune response in mice.

Details about the work, begun at the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Medicine four years ago, will be reported at the third biennial Symposium on Science for Peace, which opened on the HU's Mt. Scopus campus this week.

The symposium is being attended by 25 scientists from Jordan, Germany, Turkey, the US, Switzerland, Russia, France, Georgia, Venezuela, Slovakia, Cyprus and the Palestinian Authority, plus an equal number of Israeli participants.

Ron in conjunction with UNESCO, the week-long event is being chaired by Prof. Yechiel Becker, a prominent HU molecular

virologist who leads the vaccine team.

Becker said that dendritic cells in the skin's epidermis have been shown in lab animals to pass synthetic viral peptides (protein chains) on to the lymphatic system in the body, creating an immune response by cytotoxic T-cells.

This mechanism, dubbed "peploction" by the researchers, can be a more effective means of vaccination than injection, especially in Third World countries that lack disposable hypodermic needles.

His lecture is on "A Proposal for an International Consortium to Develop Synthetic Peptide and DNA vaccines against Biological Weapons Agents."

The HU virologist said that so far, despite the threat of biological warfare against Israel, the defense authorities have "not yet shown interest" in the new approach.

He noted ironically that Italian groups are at work to form a consortium for developing new vaccines, while Israel has not yet invested the funds needed to make the research relevant to humans.

Leopard loose in the North?

By LIAT COLLINS

As if family and friends of soldiers on the northern border didn't have enough to worry about, there has been an unsubstantiated sighting of a leopard close to Lebanon.

However, Nature Protection and National Parks Authority staff stress there is no danger to humans.

"I have found no conclusive evidence so far that there is a leopard there," said NPNA northern region biologist Didi Kaplan. "It is more likely to turn out to be a jungle cat. And even if it is a leopard, I subscribe to the belief that although many leopards have been killed by people, no people here have ever been killed by leopards."

Kaplan said he tried to find the animal after a report from two hikers, traveling together, that they had seen a leopard.

The last known leopard in the North was killed in the early 1960s near Kibbutz Hanita and only tiny populations survive in the Judean Desert and Har

Hanegev regions.

"If there is a leopard there it could have come from almost anywhere in the North: Galilee, the Golan, Syria or Lebanon," said Kaplan. "It is highly unlikely to have moved up from the Judean Desert."

Kaplan said the hikers probably saw one of the jungle cats which definitely live in the area, "but I would be happy to be proven wrong."

There have been several reported sightings of leopards in the North in recent years, but none have been substantiated and in most cases the tracks were of jungle cats.

He said if hikers do see what they believe to be a leopard they should report it to the NPNA and continue to act normally.

"Don't try to approach it and don't run away," he advised. "It is highly unlikely to attack, and the fact that it has been difficult to get close enough to clearly identify it shows that it is cautious around humans."



First rainfall

A Jerusalemite walks near the city's central bus station during the first rainfall of the season yesterday. Local forecasters are expecting this winter to be wetter than usual. (Brian Hendler)

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Busy going nowhere

John Glenn's first space trip was marred by the wrong philosophy of exploration then, his second by the wrong attitude now.

The first trip was a panicky Cold War exercise to make sure the second man in space was not another Soviet cosmonaut. The second trip has been an over-hyped public-relations exercise to make sure the second long-life space station will be funded.

"We were all trying to catch up with the Russians then — the guys were really going to do it," T.J. O'Malley, the launch officer for the 1962 Atlas mission, has been saying in recent interviews.

For non-Americans, it was hard to whip up much enthusiasm for the second man in space. Billing him as "the first American" was similar to trumpeting the first Russian to fly after the Wright brothers. In the march of civilization, who cares? The first is the breakthrough, the followers perform the obligatory proof that the experiment can be repeated.

Not science

Man's journey to the stars is supposed to be the first visionary expansion of the human race. In the flawed nature of human character, there certainly is some positive spin-off to be had from inter-nation rivalries, as there was in the African and polar explorations of the last century. But how much greater is the spin-off from international cooperation.

Glenn's shuttle mission was another touchy-feely American celebration of itself, which its all-pervasive media tried to sell as a world event. Not surprisingly, in Japan, the only person the people were interested in was their national heroine Chiaki Mukai, seated beside Glenn on the launch-pad.

Slightly more disturbing than the hype was the spectacle of science buying into it — helping NASA to sell the Glenn trip on scientific grounds.

This was important research into the aging process — an experiment on one person for a week? As far as anyone can judge from the footage, the most interesting thing that Glenn proved is that weightless space may be the best place to build a Golden Age holiday home. It was when that one-G kicked in after he landed that his old pins began to look wobbly.

That's it?

Science should come clean and apologize — the Discovery mission was a PR exercise, the ultimate junket for a popular senator and old-time hero, and Glenn's contribution to science is zilch. The world can accept that, for the space effort badly needs humanizing, as well as fund-raising.

The great mission to send back the first orbiting American was a reminder of how bleak the space program has become. The first time he swung around the globe alone for five hours in a capsule, the second time for eight days in more spacious accommodations, but with six others.

After 36 years, that's it? It would have been nice had Glenn been visiting a moon base, or even decrepit, old Mir.

At least he would have been going somewhere.

The space program for most of the past decade has been busy going nowhere — like Eddie the jumping dog on *Frasier*, up and down, up and down. Man is not exploring new frontiers so much as doing what he does best — making money by exploiting new territory.

While Glenn was in orbit, the Europeans successfully launched their powerful new Ariane 5 commercial rocket from Guyana. This is where the real space race is — in pursuit of the big bucks from launching satellites. It's that vision thing again, maybe there is just no room for it in free-market space.

Toy thing

But all is not yet lost. Last year, on July 4, the world woke up to the greatest little space story we have had for many years. The Mars Pathfinder mission, which most people had never heard of, made a flawless landing on the red planet and began to beep back pictures of itself wandering around rocks named after cartoon characters.

It somehow caught the international imagination — the explorer was so simple, like a Lego robot, yet the immensity of the achievement was mythic. Lacking a human presence, the rover acquired a personality of its own across the millions of miles that separated it from home, and from its little brother duplicating its movements at NASA.

John Glenn is a fine man, a brave one, and a personal role model for a baby-boomer generation reluctantly plodding in denial to old age. For that we can salute him. But the Discovery mission was no trail-blazer, and he brings back no formula for eternal youth — nor even for eternal 77.

It's a fair guess John Glenn dolls won't be a big hit this Christmas. But a replica of the Mars rover is still a best seller, and so realistic that when their kids aren't playing with them, NASA engineers are using them to brief visiting scientists. Somewhere in that symbiosis of toys, makers, engineers, science fiction, kids, and kids who haven't yet grown up, is trapped the real vision that will take us not, but our descendants, to the stars — going somewhere, for a change.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Iraqi isolation is hurting youth

In an era of UN sanctions, school enrollment has dropped, illiteracy is up and children know little of the world beyond their borders — except that America is enemy No. 1

By HOWARD SCHNEIDER

BAGHDAD — The children at the Wakadi School know from their parents that some things are lacking in this era of UN sanctions against Iraq.

And they think they know who is to blame.

"America has hurt us. America is our enemy," said Yasser Jabbar Abbas, 11. "They attacked the schools. America attacked homes and apartments."

"Life before was better," added Athara Hamad, 13. "We can't buy good food." Beyond that, however, the world view from the children's classroom in downtown Baghdad becomes less definitive and suggests the degree to which education has been as much a casualty of Iraq's isolation as has its health standards and income.

Among a group of children 10 to 13 years old, finishing their last year in primary school and selected by their teacher as the most articulate of the class, none knew that their country's army had entered neighboring Kuwait in 1990, and none knew that other Arab nations had participated in the US-led military coalition that reversed the Iraqi invasion.

Immersed in the Koran because of the country's mandatory religious-education classes and big fans of President Saddam Hussein as well as the *Tom and Jerry* cartoon show, they said they know little about the seismic events of the last decade that may have shaped their options in life as much as any other factor.

All they can say with certainty, in fact, is that American bombs fell on their country and that afterward it was harder to get meat and eggs and cheese. It is a logic that school administrator Turkey Ibrahim shares.

The children have been taught what they need to know, Ibrahim said — that "the reason for the embargo is that Iraq is a big country and is the mother of the Arabs, and... America does not want Iraq to become a great country."

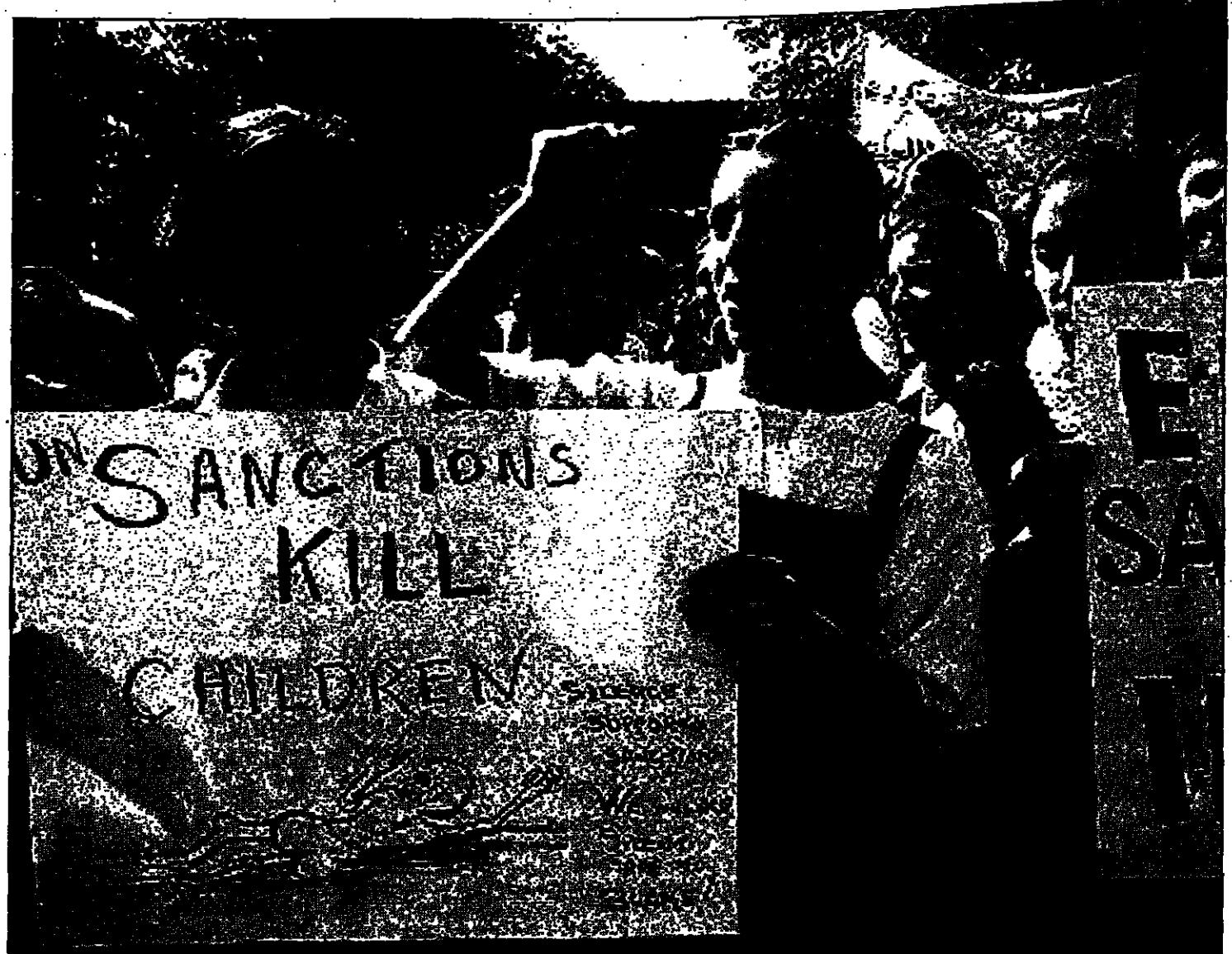
Discussion of the Kuwait invasion is avoided, he said, because "we don't consider Kuwait a country."

Likewise, any mention of the fact that Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other countries in the region took part in the war against Iraq is also excluded because "Iraq is trying to strengthen our relations with Arabs," Ibrahim said.

THE status of public education in Iraq is an emerging concern of UN officials stationed here. They note that after nearly two decades of conflict, first against Iran, then following the invasion of Kuwait, school enrollment has dropped and illiteracy has increased.

"This country had achieved practically universal primary education," said Philippe Heffinck, head of the UN Children's Fund in Baghdad. Now, however, UN statistics indicate that fewer than 70 percent of 6-year-olds are enrolling in school on time.

Illiteracy, meanwhile, increased from an estimated 27% during the



Iraqi schoolgirls, shouting and carrying anti-US slogans, demonstrate last month outside a United Nations office in Baghdad against the continuing UN trade sanctions. (AP)

mid-1980s to around 40% today.

In an interview with the Reuters news agency following his recent resignation as head of UN humanitarian programs in Iraq, Denis Halliday said he felt the intellectual isolation of Iraq's younger generation may have as profound an effect on the country's future as any other aspect of the embargo.

Compared to their parents' generation, many of whom traveled frequently and often, received some education outside Iraq, today's Iraqi children have seen little of the world, and those who might be able to leave the country for school often do so for good, depriving the society of their experience and training.

In a world of satellite dishes, cell phones and global markets, they have grown up in a country whose skies are largely free of airplanes — the consequence of US-enforced flight bans and an international air-travel embargo — and whose media is utterly subservient to the government.

Tom and Jerry and some other outside programming is aired on state-run television but only in between lengthy tributes to the president.

CNN is piped into the Baghdad press center but is not available, for example, at the city's top hotel, the Rasheed.

"They don't have a great deal of exposure to travel, even to reading materials, television, never mind technological change," Halliday said. "I think these people are going to have a real problem in terms of how to deal with the world in the near future."

WHAT that means for the children at the Wakadi school is a bright smile, a snap to attention and a shout of "Long live his excellency Saddam Hussein!" when a foreign visitor enters the classroom — but a blank stare when that visitor asks

if they have heard of the Internet or the World Wide Web.

In her family's small apartment, down an alleyway near the carpet souk and open markets of Rasheed Street, the parents of Rana Mohammed, 14, explain that their daughter has dropped out of school because they can't afford the clothes and other expenses.

Her father, Mohammed Rasheed, said his salary as a security guard at the Agriculture Ministry once was enough to feed and clothe his family well. Now they rely on government food

rations and even then have had to sell much of their furniture to survive.

His eldest son, Wallid, is now helping with his salary as a soldier, but the young man's ambitions far outstrip the realities of a city that was, in the time of ancient Babylon, a center of world culture.

Wallid, 22, said he'll leave the army after his term is done to look for a "good job" — preferably one as a driver on the cab route from Amman to Baghdad. (The Washington Post)

Yes, we have no bananas

Hurricane Mitch has leveled Honduras' second most important crop, and the plight of the thousands left homeless and jobless stands as an example for a region dependent on too few exports

By GEOFFREY MOHAN

FINCA TIBOMBO, Honduras — The banana workers crammed into boxcars and cinder-block houses on this plantation on the Caribbean coast lost everything in Hurricane Mitch, whose waters still cover the vast savannas of banana plants left rotting in the fields.

Now, the 7,300 pickers and packers have gotten word that their jobs are gone too, after a subsidiary of Chiquita Banana Group, Tela Railroad Co., suspended them for a period that will last at least four months, and perhaps up to two years.

Several thousand contract workers have lost work as well, and as many 12,000 layoffs or suspensions are expected along the entire coast, where the trees that produce Honduras' second-most important crop lie yellowing in fields converted to lagoons.

The plight of these workers stands out as an example for the nation and the region in general, which remains dependent on a few primary exports more than a century after colonialism ended. Agriculture, which employs nearly half the work force here, suffered more than 70 percent losses nationwide, including a near-total loss of the banana crop, according to government figures.

Here, in the agricultural heartland of Honduras, a country a bit

larger than Virginia, some officials are beginning to question a dependency that led to the coining of the nickname "banana republic."

"We cannot found our economy on bananas and coffee," said Mario Canahuati, president of the chamber of commerce and industry in the port of Cortes north of here. "One of the things we have done before was we were just content to export maybe 26 products. If you lose those export crops, you lose the work force, and that can create more damage than Hurricane Mitch. That can create social instability."

Chiquita officials say the suspensions are temporary. But the move, coming even before the waters have receded from the houses and fields, has provoked bitterness toward "The company," as Chiquita is known in the region.

"They should keep paying our salaries," said one worker, who did not want to be identified for fear of being fired. "We're destroyed."

Arnaldo Palma, general manager for the Chiquita subsidiary, said Honduran law requires the company to apply for a suspension within three days of a disaster, or continue paying salaries indefinitely. The company, which estimates losses at \$100 million in this plantation alone, opted for suspension to cut losses and give it time to consider its options, Palma said.

"The problem is if you don't suspend them, then you are bound by law to pay them the average salary, with no end," Palma said. "The only other alternative is termination."

The company will pay out accrued vacation and bonuses that could amount to as much as three months' pay, Palma said during a visit to the ruined plantation, which stretches over 16,000 acres and produces more than 830 million pounds of bananas annually.

WORKERS say that monthly income averages \$80, the legal minimum here, and never was much to live on in the first place. Chiquita has offered its workers the chance to till some fields until they can be rehabilitated, but no one is sure yet whether the mud and sand driven over the plantation by the flood will be fertile.

"We make salaries that are as low as that mud," one worker said. "And I work from 6 a.m. until 3 p.m. on piecework. I want to get out of here. But how can I? I have a 4-month-old baby."

Honduran Vice President Guillermo Handal said his government will try to give about 2,000 of the workers temporary jobs cleaning up the destruction caused by the storm, which killed more than 6,000 here and more than 10,000 throughout Central America. Handal predicted that total job

losses could reach 12,000.

"All those poor people lose their homes, then they lose their jobs," Handal said. "What are we going to do?" Handal said he harbors no animosity toward Chiquita, which he said is committed to staying.

"The thing with Chiquita is they have said they will stay in Honduras," he said. "We don't feel bad about that."

The northwestern region of Honduras, where the Chiquita plantations are, produces 65 percent of the nation's gross national product — agriculture and a small but growing number of duty-free assembly plants.

But bananas — along with other tropical fruit — rule the land here, and have done so for the better part of a century, when The United Fruit Co., Chiquita's predecessor, came to wield such control it was known as "the octopus."

Together, coffee and bananas account for 42 percent of Honduras' export earnings, while shellfish, an increasing amount of which is raised on farms, amounts to another 14%. So far, coffee crops have had only about 20% losses, while all other lending exports have been near-total losses.

Relief officials and some banana workers have lauded Chiquita's response to the disaster, which included numerous airdrops of food and medicine in its earliest days. (Newsday)

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Republicans get guide to Starr defense

By LARRY MARGASAK

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans received a fat memorandum yesterday outlining arguments in defense of Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr in preparation for next week's House impeachment hearing.

Starr is to be the only major witness now scheduled as the Judiciary Committee opens its examination of possible impeachment of President Bill Clinton. Committee members

now are talking about calling a top Clinton aide, however.

The first part of a two-part memo, written by the committee's Republican staff, is titled "positive points" about Starr.

The memo's first point: "Judge Starr is one of the country's premier lawyers." The second part of the paper focuses on "response to recent attacks" on Starr by Democrats.

The committee is investigating whether Clinton committed perjury and other crimes in his admitted sexual relationship with former White House intern

Monica Lewinsky.

Several of the half-dozen committee Republicans who attended a 45-minute meeting yesterday said they were briefed on the panel's schedule and told by aides that investigators and Chairman Henry Hyde are still considering whether to call additional witnesses.

Hyde has said he wants the committee to vote on any articles of impeachment by the end of the year. If the committee approves the charges, they will then go to a vote of the House for possible trial in the Senate.

The meeting came a day after Republican committee members sent a strong message that they're not shaken by election losses and are intensifying attacks on Democrats who believe lying about sex is not an impeachable offense.

Republicans are even considering expanding impeachment hearings next week by calling Clinton's closest White House adviser, Bruce Lindsey.

This possibility arose after the Supreme Court on Monday refused to shield Lindsey from questioning by prosecutors on

what conversations he had with Clinton about Ms. Lewinsky.

"We're talking about it, yes," Hyde said Monday, less than a week after announcing that Starr would be the only major witness when hearings begin Nov. 19.

Despite the loss of five House seats in last week's election and polls showing the public wants to put an end to the Lewinsky matter, Hyde said Monday his committee was duty-bound to proceed.

"I don't interpret the election as a veto of our efforts," Hyde said.



Remembering Wallenberg

Nina Lagergren (second from right), the half-sister of Raoul Wallenberg, who saved the lives of some 100,000 Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust, stands with her daughters Nan Annan (right), Astri Lidman (left), and Mi Wernsyedt (center) and her daughter-in-law Ingaborg Lager (second from left) near a memorial to Wallenberg outside the UN on Monday. (Reuters)

Clinton probed over campaign finance

By SONYA ROSS

WASHINGTON (AP) — His legal problems surging anew, President Bill Clinton has been questioned by Justice Department investigators looking into whether his 1996 re-election campaign got an illegal boost from Democratic Party issue advertising.

The president was questioned Monday as part of a preliminary, 90-day investigation into the possible violation of federal campaign finance laws.

He was interviewed for 90 minutes in the White House study by two FBI agents and two Justice

Department lawyers. His personal attorneys, David Kendall and Nicole Seligman, also were present.

Clinton has denied any wrongdoing.

The Washington Post quoted unidentified sources familiar with Clinton's testimony as saying the president essentially reiterated his earlier defense that the ads were legal, but that in any case prosecutors must show an intent to break the law.

If lawyers advised him that the ads were legal, according to Clinton's reasoning, there could be no criminal intent, the newspaper said in yesterday's editions.

US court allows state to use school vouchers

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — The US Supreme Court, in a case that challenges the separation of church and state, has allowed Wisconsin to use school vouchers, which are taxpayer funds, to pay for religious and private school education. Opponents assail vouchers as state support for "religious indoctrination."

The court on Monday in effect endorsed vouchers in Wisconsin, when it declined to hear a challenge to the state program, which provides up to \$5,000 a

year per child to poor families whose children attend religious schools.

In the Jewish community, vouchers have become something of a flash point, highlighting the tension between pragmatism and principle.

The Wisconsin case does not set national standards on the use of vouchers. But it is expected to both encourage their expanded use and to lead to additional legal challenges of them.

See American Jewish day schools, in Friday's 'Magazine.'

WORLD

in brief

Albanians accuse Serbs of violating cease-fire

PRISTINA (AP) — Ethnic Albanian guerrillas accused Serb police yesterday of provoking fights in Kosovo province and said any violence committed by their side was purely in self-defense. The statement by Kosovo Liberation Army spokesman Adem Demaci followed the kidnapping of two Serb police officers who were later found dead with gunshot wounds to the head.

The KLA and the Serbs have accused each other of violating a US-brokered cease-fire intended to halt hostilities in Kosovo, where ethnic Albanians make up 90 percent of the population. The province is in southern Serbia, the dominant Yugoslav republic.

Violence by both sides has increased in the past week, including at least three incidents in which police reported killing KLA fighters who shot at them first.

Mahathir says power transition planned

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Malaysia's prime minister Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that he's planning a gradual transition of power.

Mohamad, 72, who is Asia's longest-ruling leader after 17 years in office, said on CNN, "I would like to step down as soon as possible, but I have a responsibility to make sure that my successor can carry on where I leave off." He said the succession will take at least a year, and will be linked to elections planned for 1999. His one-time designated successor, former deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim, is on trial on charges of sexual misconduct and corruption which critics say are politically motivated.

Two IRA bombers released as part of accord

BELFAST (AP) — Two of the Irish Republican Army's senior female prisoners were freed yesterday in accordance with the historic Northern Ireland agreement.

Martina Anderson of Londonderry and Ella O'Dwyer of Tipperary both received life sentences in 1985 in connection with bomb attacks on London and English seaside towns.

More than 200 of an eligible 450 prisoners — from both the IRA and outlawed pro-British paramilitary groups — have already been paroled early as part of April's agreement on how Protestants and Catholics should jointly govern Northern Ireland. The releases are conditional on each group maintaining a cease-fire.

UK doctor faces murder trial in patient's death

MANCHESTER (Reuters) — A British doctor was ordered yesterday to face trial accused of murdering an elderly woman patient. Dr Harold Shipman, 52, has been charged with murdering four women patients and with using forgery and attempted deception to try to inherit the £300,000 estate of one of his alleged victims.

A court near Manchester sent him to trial for one of the deaths and will decide on December 7 whether he should face trial for the others.

Police began investigating Shipman when the daughter of one of his alleged victims, Kathleen Grundy, contacted them after discovering her mother's will had apparently been changed two weeks before her death to make Shipman the sole beneficiary.

Russian parties cautiously back financial crisis plan

By ANDREI KHALIP

MOSCOW (Reuters) — The Russian government yesterday won at least partial support from both Communists and centrists for an anti-crisis plan that calls for a greater state role in the economy.

The plan has yet to be made public and its most disputed element — next year's budget — will not be ready for weeks.

But Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov has sought urgent passage of reform laws and cooperation on the budget from legislators.

Communists, who dominate the State Duma lower house, praised the idea of a greater state role and a "socially-oriented" market economy — features which, combined with the printing of money to cover budget needs, have alienated foreign creditors.

Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov, who controls the largest bloc, said he would not mind "a tough 1999 budget."

Zyuganov said before the plan was presented to parliament yesterday that it marked "a step forward toward the real economy and the social protection of citizens." He praised the government's desire to help domestic producers and the defense industry.

After the hearing he was somewhat more guarded, telling a

news conference he would support the budget only if it sufficiently financed production, health care, and the fight against crime, and that each of the government's 30 or more proposed anti-crisis laws must still be examined separately.

He also said the government lacked the political and financial resources to carry out emergency plans, and that any attempt to "return down the path of radical liberalism" would lead to civil war "worse than any we have seen before."

Finance Minister Mikhail Zadornov promised to deliver the 1999 budget only on December 1, setting the stage for several more weeks of political wrangling before the document appears.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary leader of the centrist Our Home Is Russia group, Alexander Shokhin, lauded the government's "diplomatic maneuvering," which he said allowed it to clothe tough monetarist proposals in generally conservative guidelines.

"Now there are some warm words coming from the left corner about the government turning toward the producer. But if you listen to [First Deputy Prime Minister Yuri] Maslyukov attentively, you can find liberal approaches," said Shokhin. "For example, one of the draft budget

versions assumes a two-percent deficit, which makes it a super-tough budget."

For now, the anti-crisis plan is in fact a series of scenarios ranging from worst-case to optimistic, but Shokhin said the cabinet is most likely to go for concrete tough economic decisions, as the prospects of winning foreign credits or debt rescheduling are so far unclear.

Shokhin said such concrete steps were likely to dent relations between the government and the Duma. These have so far been quite cordial under Primakov, a compromise figure approved by the chamber after President Boris Yeltsin — now recovering from another bout of ill health — was forced to drop his first choice to end a political stalemate.

Shokhin said that if the Duma fails to pass the budget by the start of next year, the government could enjoy even wider economic freedom, as it could base its spending on the previous year's budget.

Despite yesterday's positive note, concrete economic proposals have so far failed to materialize.

In a separate development, most deputies opposed calls to ratify the START-2 nuclear arms reduction deal with the US and intensify efforts to close a further deal, START-3, in a bid to improve Moscow's case for Western help.

Schroeder claims political center

By ROBERT MAHONEY

BONN (Reuters) — Chancellor Gerhard Schröder vowed in his inaugural speech yesterday to turn Germany into a "New Center Republic" by fighting unemployment, cutting taxes, and reforming the European Union.

Schroeder, 54, said that after 16 years of conservative government under Helmut Kohl, Germany is now in the hands of a post World War II generation that will strive for the "new center" of politics.

"We have said that we do not want to do everything differently, but many things better," Schröder told the Bundestag in

a two-hour speech outlining his Social Democrats' program for the next four years.

Kohl, who led his Christian Democrats to their worst election defeat in 50 years in September, watched from the back benches.

Wolfgang Schäuble, elected to succeed Kohl on Saturday, led the opposition attack by repeating charges that Schröder was all style and no substance.

"In your inaugural speech, I haven't found anything of the new center but plenty of the old left, and even more confusion," Schäuble, 56, said.

"It was remarkably vague on content."

EU opens formal enlargement talks

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union yesterday opened formal membership talks with five Eastern European nations — Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Estonia — and Cyprus, which asked for help pushing Turkey to try to end the division of the island.

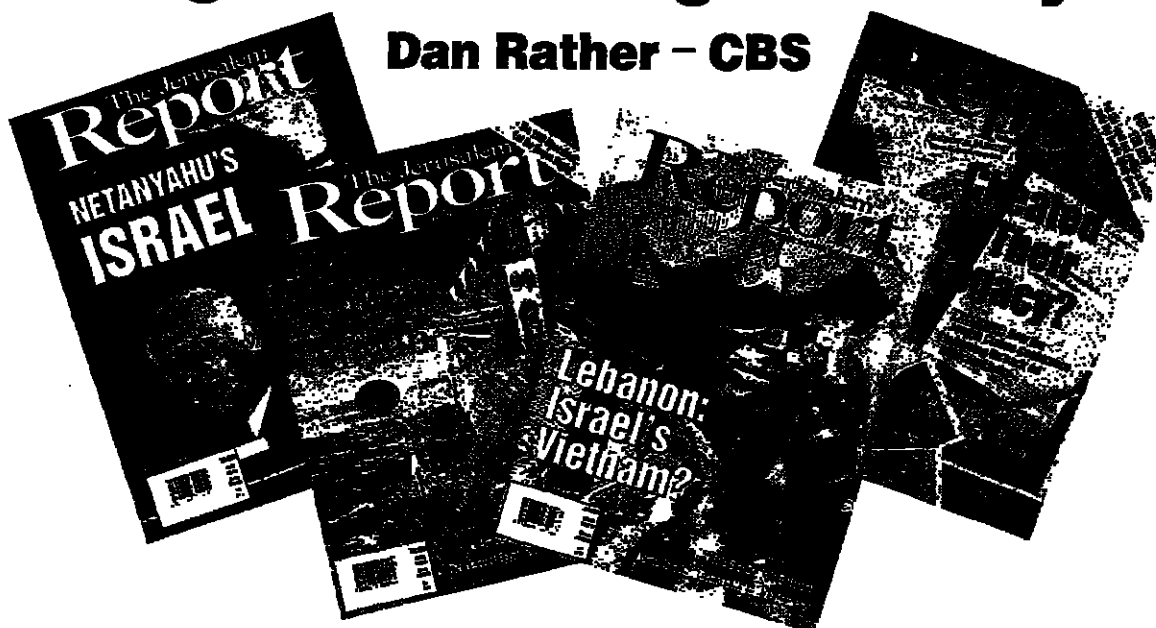
Opening formal membership talks with the EU, Cypriot Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides stressed his government's commitment to the "search of a viable and just solution" to the separation of the island's Greek and Turkish populations.

The problems of Cyprus loomed large a day after the Dutch, German, and French governments issued a rare declaration questioning the wisdom of admitting Cyprus unless it is first reunified.

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Amidror's false note

According to Maj.-Gen. Ya'acov Amidror, IDF ensembles should not perform songs promising peace. One is tempted to respond that generals who repeatedly make verbal gaffes should not command the IDF's most prestigious educational institution.

Amidror, who took command of the National Defense College two months ago, criticized the performance of two songs at a closed-door seminar on the 25th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War. The songs, "Children of Winter" by Shmuel Hasifri and "The Last War" by Haim Hefer, were both spawned by that war. According to Israel Radio's Carmela Menashe, Amidror said of the lyrics of the two songs, "It is a lie to promise a dove with an olive branch, and no one ever promised that this will be the very last war."

Previously, Amidror had come under fire (and possibly was passed over for the post of OC Intelligence) for calling secular Israelis "Hebrew-speaking goyim" in a newspaper interview. Both remarks have come under greater than normal scrutiny because Amidror is the first ever religiously-observant major-general outside the Chaplaincy Corps.

It is ironic that a general, who is supposed to think in strategic terms, would choose to fight battles so far outside of his purview, and do so boorishly - thereby reducing his influence rather than contributing to the national debate.

There is certainly room for an intelligent critique of secular Israeli culture, as there is of national religious culture, and other Israeli cultures. It is not appropriate for a high-ranking army officer to engage in such critiques, but it might be excused if it were done without stooping to crass insults, and with some humility.

The call to strip military performances of widely-beloved and not anti-military songs about peace is not just crass, but betrays a disturbing distortion of the Israeli military ethos. "The IDF's strength lies in that it is an army that pursues peace and fights only when it knows it needs to fight," explained Nehemiah Dagan, a former OC Education Corps. "Trying to educate society to be more militant will not improve the IDF, and that's an understatement."

There is no reason for generals to act defensively toward yearnings for peace. As opposed

to Western countries where pacifism is a prominent current, here it is understood across most of the political spectrum that a strong IDF is critical to pursuing peace. Israelis are right to be proud of the hope that has remained with us since the state's founding, that each war will be the last war. Nowhere is that hope more appropriately expressed than in the IDF, which plays such a pivotal role in making that hope a reality, and by no means is hope better expressed than in song.

Perhaps Amidror was trying to, albeit clumsily, add his voice to others both inside and out of the military who have worried about dwindling morale or public attitudes toward the IDF. Former chief of general staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak spoke on the first anniversary of the Rabin assassination about how the IDF does not command the respect and is not admired the way it used to be. Amidror thinks, evidently, that promises of peace may contribute to this trend, and in any case are a dangerous illusion.

It is true that the Oslo Accords, and most recently their continuation under the Wye Memorandum, have led to rising expectations concerning the prospects for peace. No democracy wishes to remain militarized a day longer than it must, and it is fair to be concerned that Israelis might be tempted to let their guard down too soon. If peace treaties are reached with the Palestinians and neighboring countries in the next few years, the challenge of maintaining a strong military will increase. At the same time, the chances of these peace treaties holding will depend greatly on Israel rising to this challenge and not letting its military "hollow out" as in other democracies.

The IDF does need to adapt to these changing circumstances by becoming smaller and more efficient without losing its edge - a difficult task. But that task will not be aided by attempts to lower public expectations about peace. The IDF is still a people's army, and its soldiers should not be taught that there is a contradiction between their sacrifices and the pursuit of peace. Israeli soldiers should yearn for, pray for, and sing about peace, with the knowledge that they are doing more than most to bring peace about.



CIA as honest broker

MILT BEARDEN

The proposal to make the CIA responsible for monitoring compliance with the latest Middle East peace accord drew fire even before the agency's role was fully understood. The idea is central to the US-brokered land-for-peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians agreed to last month at Wye Plantation.

Critics opposed to any CIA role in policy matters expressed grave doubts about blurring old lines separating intelligence from policy.

Others dismissed the proposed monitoring role as yet another example of a spy agency oversteering by history and in search of a new mission.

Intelligence purists, still nostalgic for the more predictable days of the highly secretive East-West spy contests, fretted over the public nature of the new CIA role, viewing it as a corruption of the traditions of secrecy.

Most of the critics seem to agree that the State Department should be the security monitor in the Middle East.

They are wrong. The immutable reality of the delicate deal struck at Wye is that without US acquiescence to Israeli and Palestinian demands for a CIA monitoring role, there would not have been an agreement. There are sound reasons - and a historical basis - for Israel's and the Palestinians' trust in the CIA.

SHORTLY after the Oslo Accords were signed in September 1993, the CIA dispatched its Middle East operations chief, Frank Anderson, to resurrect a long-dormant contact with the Palestine Liberation Organization and explore prospects for cooperation. These early contacts marked the beginning of a relationship that eventually led to improvements in the security capabilities of the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and the West Bank.

That same fall, Anderson met with Israeli officials to broker direct Israeli contacts with the

Palestinians. It was at these meetings between the PLO and the Israelis five years ago that the CIA's involvement in the Middle East peace process actually began. Anderson called it "low-intensity statecraft," and his description has stuck.

These direct contacts evolved rapidly under prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, and with only minimal CIA "minding." But after Rabin was assassinated in 1995 and Benjamin Netanyahu gained power in 1996, the new Israeli government fumbled, and political dialogue with the PA broke down. Some contacts on security matters continued, but the larger process foundered. The CIA once again assumed the vital role of honest broker.

Over the next two years, respect for the CIA's competence and neutrality as an intermediary grew in both camps. Now, that role has been formalized in the Wye agreement. Israel insisted on CIA involvement to maintain effective and independent pressure on the Palestinian Authority; the Palestinians insisted on the CIA's presence to keep from constantly being rolled by the Israelis. The CIA's role is to monitor the implementation of the proposed CIA role in the Middle East peace process should be discussed.

On the plus side, the agency's role is not really new, it is simply overt. A level of trust in the CIA has been established, one that has been sorely tested. Such tests are indispensable to the tougher ones to come.

The CIA's peace-monitoring role is only one part of a more complex set of goals accepted as just and reasonable by all but Israel's most intractable enemies. All elements of the US government have a stake in the agency's success, as do the responsible parties in the Middle East.

Finally, even though the CIA

role is public knowledge, the agency will be able to maintain much-needed discretion, as it did when its brokering role was secret.

The downside to CIA involvement is real, but the highest risks are to the intelligence agency as an institution, rather than to the peace process itself.

High on the list is the question of open-endedness: How long will the CIA be a monitor? The answer depends on the intransigence of organizations such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad and on the ability of the PA and the Israeli government to build confidence in their dealings with one another. Judging by the state of affairs, it would appear that the CIA may be in for the long haul.

Will Hamas or Islamic Jihad, or any other Palestinian group that generally has not targeted US officials in the past, turn on the CIA monitors?

Possibly. But the dangers of the task cannot dictate whether or not it is to be undertaken.

Will its role as monitor put the CIA in the untenable middle when the first car bomb blows? Possibly. But if the CIA sticks to collecting and disseminating ground-level intelligence, US policy-makers can, and should, deal with the politics of finger pointing.

Will the Israelis or the Palestinians try to manipulate the CIA into validating their respective positions? Sure. But what's new about that? The Wye agreement is neither a great deal nor a particularly bad one. It is the first time that PA Chairman Yasser Arafat has put his signature to a document on key security issues, and that precedent must be viewed positively. If the parties directly involved feel they need a middleman, and if the one they have chosen is the CIA, that must be viewed with equal enthusiasm. In the Middle East, there may be no other option.

The author spent 30 years in the CIA's directorate of operations.

(Los Angeles Times)

Weather the storm

RUTHIE BLUM

As the evening news drew to a close, I tried to focus on the weather forecast.

"Mommy," my nearly nine-year-old daughter grumbled as she shot an apprehensive glance at the room of our apartment designated as a bomb and chemical weapons shelter.

"Just a minute," I answered with parental impatience. It's bad enough not being permitted by your family to listen to any broadcast in its entirety. But being prevented from hearing the one item which has immediate relevance to that family is intolerable. Particularly when it is the only tidbit that restores your sense of having some degree of control over your personal environment. No matter how false a sense this may be.

It's no wonder that the weather report is usually the last item in a news broadcast. After being bombarded with tales of espionage, strikes, brawls, road carnage and even aliens, we in the audience need a cheerful young man or woman telling us to take our winter clothes out of storage and arm ourselves with umbrellas.

So hungry are we for these few seconds of respite from woe that we even turn bad weather into good news. Sure, we'll freeze for the next few months. True, the sky is murky. But rain raises the level of the Kinneret. It's necessary for agriculture. It's good for the Jews.

"Mommy," my daughter again began, this time tugging on my sleeve. "That security room won't help us at all when Hurricane Mitch strikes Israel and blows the roof off of our building."

I was dumbfounded. This child, who had spent her first birthday inside one of those gas-proof tents, was worrying about

Why was my daughter worried about Hurricane Mitch?

a hurricane in Central America. "Hurricane Mitch is not coming to Israel. Go to bed!" I said, signing.

She was not convinced. "Oh yeah," like I really believe that," she answered, sardonically.

MY dumbfoundedness turned into perplexity. This child, whose brother was strolling around the center of Jerusalem when bombs went off on Ben-Yehuda Street just over a year ago (claiming the lives of two of his classmates and severely wounding another), was worrying about a hurricane in Central America.

"Hurricane Mitch is not coming to Israel," I repeated. "How would you know?" she sneered.

My perplexity turned into confusion. This child, whose teacher released her third-grade class after the Mahaneh Yehuda bombing on Friday with a reminder not to touch any suspicious objects on the way home, was worrying about a hurricane in Central America.

"We would be informed by the authorities if Hurricane Mitch were coming to Israel," I feigned a return sneer, instantly doubting my own words of comfort.

"You mean the same 'authorities' who told us it was going to rain last week when it didn't?" she challenged.

My confusion suddenly vanished. Naturally, this child, who is told repeatedly by friend and foe alike that all she has to do to avoid physical harm is to alter her behavior, is worrying about a hurricane in Central America.

Giving the Palestinians more land, she is assured, will prevent her from being blown up at bus stops. Refraining from speaking in a foreign language while at a cafe, she gleams, will prevent her from being stabbed to death by hotheads at a nearby table.

Buckling up and crossing at crosswalks, she is told, will prevent her from being killed in or by a moving vehicle. Refraining from spying on foreign countries, she infers, will prevent her from becoming a target for anti-Semitism.

But what behavior can she adopt to protect her from the wrath of the elements? (A small sector of society might advise that becoming a more observant Jew would help, but luckily this is one admonition she apparently hasn't heard yet.)

Perhaps it is not surprising, then, that whatever tempests she has to contend with on a daily basis, my daughter must fear a faraway torrent over which she realizes she has no control.

Nor is it surprising that I cling to the weather report for exactly the opposite reason. Though it can't help me protect my daughter from bombs and bandits, at least it tells me whether to send her to school in boots.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SCHOOL FOR PEACE

Sir, - We would like to congratulate the Jewish and Palestinian families in the region of Misgav who decided to set out on the long and difficult road of creating a bilingual school.

We were disappointed, however, to read Aryeh Dean Cohen's article "Program launched for integrated Jewish-Arab public schools" (October 23) in which the new school was presented as "introducing integration and bilingualism into the educational system."

The bilingual Hebrew-Arab kindergarten and primary school in

Neveh Shalom/Wahat al-Salam have been in existence for 14 years. Your own newspaper carried a story on March 10 ("Learning equality by living it") about the role of Neveh Shalom/Wahat al-Salam as a model for the initiative in Misgav.

In addition to the article ignoring the NS/WAS primary school, Lee Gordon added insult to injury by belittling the work conducted by a second institute in the village - the NS/WAS School for Peace. The demand for workshops and courses of the School for Peace comes not only from a long list of

high schools, but from the Hebrew University and the universities of Tel Aviv, Beersheba, and Haifa, each of which cooperates with the School for Peace in conducting graduate courses on group process in conflict. In a region as conflict-ridden as ours it is astonishing that there was no opportunity to study conflict management in our universities until it was introduced by the School for Peace.

BOB MARK

Neveh Shalom/Wahat al-Salam.

PUBLISH THE COVENANT

Sir, - The Palestinian Covenant is but a piece of paper. However, it is of inestimable importance to Israelis who wish to know that its destructive clauses have been cancelled and thereby be convinced of the Palestinians' peaceful intentions towards us.

It would seem that, redundantly, the Wye Memorandum commits Chairman Arafat to convene the Palestinian National Council to

confirm that the relevant clauses of the Covenant have already been cancelled as stated in a previous letter from Arafat to President Clinton.

Thus a further contention, as to whether cancellation has already occurred, continues to befuddle the world.

To rapidly solve this conundrum and educate all relevant parties, I suggest that Chairman Arafat be

requested to publish the Covenant as it now stands, in Arabic, in the Palestinian news media and concurrently send a copy, for Hebrew and English translation, to the Israeli government who will subsequently disseminate it in the news media of the world.

DAVID H. GERSHUNI

Zichron Ya'acov.

RECIPROCITY?

Sir, - It seems to me that in every issue of *The Jerusalem Post* members of the coalition, like kids in a school playground are making the same statements vis-a-vis the current situation, expressing their hopes for the failure of the Wye agreement with the old refrain, "the Palestinians are not keeping, will not keep, are incapable of keeping, their side of the bargain" struck over and over again.

In fact the typesetters or journalists could use the same copy as set

and just change the names of those quoted, from time to time.

I have yet to see any record of the number and frequencies of the government's infringement of our side of the bargain. Even as I write the prime minister has authorized construction work in the territories, almost a guarantee to inflame those with whom he is so adamant about self control.

This is a calculated provocation, typical of those he has encouraged during the length of his premier-

ship, all the time complaining of the lack of reciprocity from the Palestinians.

This action indicates the price he is willing to make the country pay in order to maintain his position. Not only does he risk our nation's welfare, but also the relationships we value with those nations with whom we have true friendship.

ERNEST MARKHAM

Kibbutz Yizre'el.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On November 11, 1948, *The Palestine Post* announced that Russia had called on the UN Security Council to order direct negotiations between Jews and Arabs, while Britain sought American support for the Bernadotte Plan which would create in Galilee the so-called neutral zone which would be handed over to Jews only after

they gave up the Negev.

25 years ago: On November 11, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that Israel and Egypt were scheduled to sign a six-point cease-fire agreement to assure the immediate return of an estimated 320 Israeli POWs, in return for permitting continuous supplies of food, water and medical supplies for the

approximately 20,000 officers and men of the beleaguered Egyptian Third Army and 10,000 civilians in the town of Suez.

Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said that one of the harshest realities of 1973 was the Soviet readiness for a direct intervention in the Middle East.

Few could have imagined that within the space of a few days - these past two weeks of striking - the students would make moves that so flagrantly violate nearly every single one of their own sacred tenets.

Alexander Zvielli

The students' hypocrisy

HILLEL NEUER

The claims of the nation's striking university students could be said to rest comfortably on at least two solid pillars.

First, fairness dictates that those who contribute lengthy and difficult service in defense of the state deserve some form of state assistance toward the pursuit of their higher education. America's G.I. Bill is a precedent for this.

Second, such support is in our national interest: Israel's main resource is its intellectual capital, and it must be preserved and cultivated as prudently as any other. Only at its peril does a nation allow its forests to fade, its fish stocks to dwindle, or its brain power to atrophy.

It is easy, then, to feel sympathy for the students' goals. It is hard, however, to sympathize with their coarse means, especially when these contravene the very principles so frequently touted by the student community. Sadly, the strikers' actions are shattering the pillars upon which their platform could stand.

Students on campus typically describe their basic worldview as one grounded in democracy and cite related principles such as the rule of law, individual rights, non-violence, and ethical public behavior.

At its root, this set of beliefs stresses right over might. It advocates a theory of a social contract whereby people respect a specific process of government that provides for majority rule, politics by persuasion, and a state monopoly on the use of legitimate force. Potential majority excesses are mitigated by recognition of certain individual rights as inviolable.

Few could have imagined that within the space of a few days - these past two weeks of striking - the students would make moves that so flagrantly violate nearly every single one of their own sacred tenets.

Non-violence? In the past few years, the universities have been filled with signs and stickers reading "Yes to Peace: No to Violence."

Yet when the cause is as holy as nation-reduction, the students become as Gandhian-like as Rehavim Ze'evi.

Consider but a sampling of recent events. Last Monday, as students across the country burned tires in the street, intifada style, on Jerusalem's Mt. Scopus hundreds of demonstrators obstructed access to Hadassah Hospital, police say. Israel Radio reported that during a demonstration at Tel Aviv University a car tried to run down a policeman. And this week, three students were arrested in Tel Aviv on suspicion they intended to use a container of gasoline found in their car to set fires.

So much for politics by persuasion.

DEMOCRACY? The rule of law? At the Hebrew University on Mt. Scopus, student activists brought chains and padlocks to bolt the gates, trying to physically deny campus access to one and all. They forced local buses seeking to enter the campus to turn away.

Come to think of it, perhaps it is superfluous to sit through classes and pour over books, when students can personally live out Animal Farm, and see with their own eyes the *Origins of Totalitarianism*.

Individual rights? One of the strikers in charge of locking everybody out of the university was asked whether he agreed with the haredi attempts to close Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat, which the Supreme Court held to be a violation of the rights of individuals seeking to pass.

"No, absolutely not," he said.

And how was this different? "Because we democratically elected our leaders."

In other words: Once a mob has taken an internal vote, it has carte blanche.

Another activist at the gate, a woman who had yet to begin her freshman year, candidly explained: "I authorized myself to do this... I am using aggression which is justified by the student struggle."

Ethical public behavior? Campus voices regularly decry the political "blackmail" exerted by the haredim to gain state funding. But when it comes to seeking money for students, that's different.

Strike organizer Gil Bar-Not threatened to continue "the struggle" until the government acceded to the students' demands and issued "an immediate order to reduce tuition by 50%." Forget about keeping one's word: The students' 1996 agreement with the government on tuition can be simply trashed at will.

The pretentiousness of the student leaders increases with each passing day.

Tel Aviv University Student Union chairman Erez Eshel speaks about a "revolution that is going to change the country" (*Ha'aretz*, November 3) - as if the strike were really about the workers or the poor - while Ronen Hershkovitz, spokesman for the National Union of Israeli Students, says the protest is now about freedom of expression.

In truth, the strike is about neither. This is about one sector of the population demanding a larger slice of the pie for itself, and its apparent willingness to trample over its own flag in the blind rush to grab it.

The writer, a graduate student at the Hebrew University, writes on law and politics.



A case of overkill



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Yesh Li Sod: Ani Lomed Heshbon (I Have a Secret: I'm Learning Arithmetic), a CD-ROM in Hebrew, by the Center for Educational Technology (CET) in Ramat Aviv, requires Windows 95 and up and a Pentium computer, for children aged 4 to 7, NIS 299.

Rating: ★★ 1/2 ★★

You don't need a Jaguar to drive to the neighborhood grocery for some milk or a Concorde supersonic jet to fly from Jerusalem to Eilat.

That should have been the guiding rule of the well-meaning CET team — experts in pre-school education, editors, animators, multimedia developers and others (some with Ph.D.s) — that produced this expensive program.

With high-quality animation of three-dimensional fairy tale characters, a 32-page instruction booklet containing footnotes quoting scholarly volumes by psychologist Jean Piaget and two Harvard experts on "The Child's Understanding of Number," they tried, so hard, they went into overkill.

Most kids in the digital age can identify numbers by the age of four or five just by observing their surroundings or being taught informally at home. They can even pick up simple arithmetic operations by noting that when you have five cookies and your brother grabs two, you have only three left.

But CET, a non-profit producer of excellent software for kindergarten, school and the home, went too far by investing a prodigious amount of thought and effort into something that can be taught more simply and quickly without spending NIS 299 on a CD-ROM. In fact, this is the first CET program I've reviewed that deserved less than a four-star rating.

The disk begins with a specially written numbers song and proceeds through its informal lessons so slowly that my seven-year-old son, although appreciative of the colorful graphics, walked away after a few minutes and exclaimed: "How boring! I learned that half my life ago!"

Although it would be suitable for children aged three, four and maybe five in kindergarten, the six- and seven-year-olds also designated as the program's potential audience wouldn't sit down in front of the screen to learn for long, though maybe the graphics would hold their attention for a while.

The group that would most benefit from the disk would be kids of various ages in special-education schools who suffer from delayed development: painstakingly and gradually learning the names and appearances of numbers and what is less and what is more, as this disk demands, would suit their pace.

The user is taken on a trip through fairy tales — Little Red Riding Hood, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Goldilocks and the Three Bears — escorted by Merlin. "Red" teaches numbers 0 to 10 and how to count them; "Snow" shows how to build groups and make them bigger or smaller; "Goldie" lectures on comparing amounts and numbers; and "Gordo" offers simple — very simple — addition and subtraction exercises.

An ability to read is not required; the child uses the mouse to go from screen to screen, each of which has a number of icons on a console that lead to games. There are 16 types of games — only a couple of which, unfortunately, can be played at various levels of difficulty. One additional button leads to the main section of CET's Web site (www.cet.ac.il), if you are already hooked up to an Internet line.

One exercise has "Goldie" calling her grandmother over her cellular phone from the woods. Grandma then asks the user to dial 703 to call the prince (who has

reverted to frog mode), 692 to consult with the Wicked Witch, 925 for the hungry wolf and 258 for her doctor. All the user has to do is click three digits on phone in the correct sequence.

In another game, a woodsman aims at bubbles containing numbers that float in the air two by two; the child has to click on the number given orally.

Click another icon and you're presented with a sequence of five numbers between 0 and 10; one is missing, and you have to click on the correct answer from among a number of cards dealt to you. Another scene shows a vault with sparkling diamonds; you're told there are four and have to make seven by shifting three more from a closet with a sliding door.

Feed the seven dwarfs by clicking and dragging on three pears, two mushrooms or six strawberries to put in their lunch baskets.

My son and I got lost in the woods, so tired of the disk that we wanted to creep into the Mamma's and Baby Bear's beds.

Multimedia Israel: Jubilee Edition 1998, a CD-ROM in English, by Davka (Israel distributor tel. 02-9922936), for the whole family, NIS 129.

Rating: ★★ ★★ ★★

HAD there had been CD-ROMs in 1967, this would have been the perfect disk to introduce Jews and non-Jews abroad to the story of the brave people that won a war in just six days.

Today, in the age of CNN, news-magazines and photo-rich Internet news sites, it seems unbelievable that a CD-ROM could find enough uninitiated people to discover the birthplace of David, the capital of the Negev, what a kibbutz is and what countries lie on Israel's borders. Potential buyers must be lying on an iceberg in Antarctica, or camping among Australia's aborigines.

But the Davka company davka goes about the task of presenting the Jewish state, now 50 and middle-aged, as if it were a newborn babe. The categories to be clicked are Where is Israel?; The Land; Cities and Sites; People & History and Culture.

"Israel is tiny," it proclaims, as you hear Mediterranean Sea waves in the background. Click on "a glass of Israeli wine" to learn about the kibbutz (wouldn't users be upset to hear that many of the collective settlements are now selling their land like crazy to build fancy villas, and that high-tech industry has increasingly replaced the citrus orchards?).

It is updated enough to say that "in 1994, the Palestinian people were given autonomy" over the city of Jericho (no mention of the casino).

The disk includes a number of rather fuzzy video clips (covering less than a quarter of the screen and at least some recycled from other uses). See the Western Wall, the Moslem Quarter and other parts of Jerusalem, the Chai Folk Ensemble ("North America's oldest Israeli dance company") and so on. There are graphs showing how many Jews have lived here since 1880; the fact that only 133,000 Arabs remained in 1949, from the 859,000 who were present before independence the year before and that only 37,000 had returned by 1952; and the incorrect statistic that there are, in 1998, 5.6 million Israelis, when in fact we have just passed the six million mark.

In the culture section, classical music is illustrated by a photo of the Israel Philharmonic and a quiz question on the first conductor and the year of its founding, plus short folk tunes (a lullaby, wedding song, prayer and Pessah seder melody, none of them with lyrics).

A "Music Machine" presents nine simple, short tunes with transliteration into Hebrew but no translation, and no syllables highlighted to keep pace with the music.

The Hebrew lesson presents the alphabet, boys' and girls' names (for some reason, all the Hebrew letters appeared in reverse order on my computer). The name Isaac was misspelled as "Issac."

Click on the Seal of Israel at the end, and an El Al plane mercifully takes you away from the disk, not before plastering the screen with your grade on the quizzes and saying it hopes you do better next time if you scored too low.

Suddenly, it's fashionable to be a father

Across the US, errant fathers are saying they want to be better dads than their dads were.

Peter Jensen writes about a program that brings inner-city men together — to read poetry, talk about pain and learn to do right by their children

They sit in a circle and talk of the joys and pains that fatherhood has brought them. They are men of the street, products of patchwork families. Most were abandoned by fathers. Some know addiction, others the city jail, poverty, anger, rejection and on. All have children. Few are married.

But on this night in West Baltimore, this unlikely band of fathers-errant is talking poetry. Poetry! They are reading aloud a poem about how fathers guide their sons best through "solid rock example." It's time to get real, they say. Time to do right by their kids.

After the poem is finished and a few have spoken, Cyril Lynch, a 38-year-old Baltimore truck driver, a father of three, clears his throat and quietly says what they all are thinking, as tears well in his eyes.

"I don't want my boys seeing me in the street doing things I don't want them to do," he says, his two-year-old son, Cyril Jr., clutched tightly in his arms. "It puts a lot of feelings in my heart to read these things."

The words now pour out. They talk of learning trades, finding jobs, supporting their kids. They long to be the dads their dads never were.

"These young guys, they want to be better fathers and better men," says Joe Jones, head of the Baltimore program that has brought these inner-city men together. "They just need to find out how."

In many communities across the nation, men are voicing similar ambitions. A growing number of programs, such as Jones' support group, are trying to encourage responsible fatherhood.

PROponents believe they are part of a burgeoning social movement aimed at convincing fathers of all classes, races, income levels and religions to become a larger part of their children's lives.

"We want to make two points — first, that fathers are important," says Wade F. Horn, president of the National Fatherhood Initiative. "And secondly, that the most important thing a father can do is invest himself in his children."

Horn, a psychologist and former Bush administration official, is the closest thing to a spokesman the fledgling cause of responsible fatherhood has today. The NFI is a private nonprofit based in the Washington suburb of Gaithersburg, Md.

What Horn and others espouse seems almost too obvious and fundamental to be recognized as any new trend. But it is a reaction to some cold, hard facts of fatherhood's failings in the 1990s. To wit: Nearly one-quarter of US children now live in a home without a father

(biological, adoptive or stepfather). About 1.2 million of the nation's children will be born out of wedlock this year, about one-third of all births.

More than 1 million children experience divorce annually.

While teenagers spend an average of 21 hours watching TV each week, they spend an average 35 minutes per week talking to their fathers, according to a 1994 study. The movement's supporters feel a kinship to groups as diverse as Promise Keepers, the fundamentalist Christian movement, and Louis Farrakhan's Million Man March three years ago. Both extolled a pro-father philosophy.

Twice, the five-year-old NFI has held national summits on fatherhood. Its TV ads urging fathers to spend more time with their children have enjoyed the equivalent of \$100 million in free air time, according to the Advertising Council Inc.

In Congress, a House subcommittee is pondering the Fathers Count Act which would give states \$2 billion over five years for pro-fatherhood programs.

SUDDENLY, it's become fashionable to talk about fatherhood.

"For too many years we've been engaged in collective amnesia about the importance of fathers in the lives of children," said Ronald B. Mincy of the Ford Foundation, which has underwritten a national "Fragile Families" program to support and study fatherhood in poor communities.

Leaders in the movement blame the prevalence of divorce and out-of-wedlock births for minimizing the father's role in child-rearing. The result: More children are living in poverty, and children are more likely to drop out of school, get involved in drugs or crime and treat their own children poorly.

Do they blame women for this? Not really. The men say they are prepared to take most of the rap, but point to extenuating circumstances like government welfare programs that have discouraged marriage.

They also see the women's rights movement as having changed the nature of family life. In just three decades, the father's role has been fundamentally altered from the traditional patriarch to something less well-defined.

"But we are not about bashing feminism," Horn said. "This is about asserting the responsibility of fathers. Women are generally a receptive audience for us."

At the heart of the movement are efforts to reinvigorate fatherhood in the inner city, where the consequences of fatherless families are most dire. According to the



Cyril Lynch holds his two-year-old son, Cyril Jr., in his arms: "I don't want my boys seeing me in the street doing things I don't want them to do."

National Center for Health Statistics, 66 percent of black children are not living with their biological father — more than twice the percentage for white children.

ENTER men such as Jones, who launched his outreach program in Baltimore five years ago. An outgrowth of "Healthy Start," a federally funded campaign to reduce the city's high infant mortality rate, the program was created to encourage men to support the women who are bearing their children.

The men who enroll must attend a prenatal appointment with a doctor, two pediatric appointments, fatherhood classes and a weekly support group.

Jones tried offering incentives to get men to attend — gift certificates for infant products and the like — but they turned out to be unnecessary: Most men wanted the help.

"Red flags have gone up for years, and we've ignored them," said Jones, 42, a one-time drug addict and 12th-grade dropout who is now a married father of three, working toward a master's degree in mental health. "The extended family is overextended."

Jones' clients are, on average, in

their mid-20s, with a ninth-grade education and no job. Most had little or no relationship with their fathers.

At the support meeting in West Baltimore, the fathers talked enthusiastically about using what they learn to help their children.

"Yesterday, I saw my five-year-old daughter for the first time since she was one," one man told the group. "I know I inflicted a lot of pain on that child's life by not being there."

So far, about 550 men have graduated from the program, which can take six to 18 months to complete. The effort has won some national attention — including a visit from Vice President Al Gore — but its future is uncertain: Federal funds for Healthy Start were cut by nearly 40 percent this year.

That kind of uncertainty over money has been a hallmark of fatherhood advocacy. Traditional government programs have long been directed at mothers and their children and have tended to view fathers as culprits.

"Whether the system of family services recognizes a family as a mom, a dad and a child, or a mom, a child and a perpetrator makes all the difference," said Mincy of the

Ford Foundation. "Someone has to specialize in worrying about that problem."

Mincy and others are hoping Congress may change that with the \$2 billion legislation proposed this year by Rep. E. Clay Shaw Jr., a Florida Republican. While the money is modest for a social program, supporters see the bill as important.

For the first time, responsible fatherhood programs would be deemed worthy enough to merit long-term federal funding.

But the bill has been controversial, in part, because it requires states to promote marriage. Some believe marriage is not always the ideal goal in the inner-city, where relationships are more likely to be complicated by drug or alcohol use and abuse, or the tendency of men to have children by multiple partners.

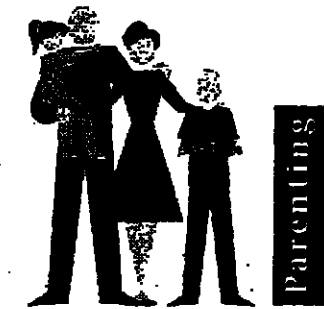
Still, Horn and other fatherhood leaders are adamant that marriage is a central tenet of their efforts.

"We don't argue that if you put a guy in the household, everything will be fine," Horn said.

"But if a father isn't there, he won't be around to do the good things a father does."

(Baltimore Sun)

Teaching kids about gambling 'games'



By Ruth Mason

My boys, all in elementary school, are very much into card and Pogs-type games (this season's hit is called Mambo). They win and lose cards and Pogs from each other and their friends and I worry that these games are like gambling.

It doesn't seem possible to ban them altogether — all their friends play, both in the neighborhood and at school. Do you have any advice for how to best deal with this?

Marcia Levine Shiro, psychologist at the Counseling Center for Women and at the Amirim center for Psychological and Educational Counseling in Reut (with input from Esther Bamberger psychologist at Amirim), replies:

I can still remember playing marbles for the first time when I was seven. I coveted the blue-gray peewee. Not only did I not acquire that peewee, I was devastated by the loss of one-half of my rather meager starting stock.

To make matters worse, my neighbor refused to give back the marbles he had won from me.

Back then it was marbles (or in Israel, apricot pits, still a local favorite). Now it's cards, Mambo,

an endless stream of goods, where more is always better of an item that has no inherent value.

These look like games, but they're not. Play and games are supposed to have imaginary and not real-time and real-life results. Here, the result is not an imaginary one — the outcome is a loss or gain of real property. The product that is traded, won or lost is a money derivative, and it is gambling.

This is an industry that feeds itself by creating demand and targeting and enticing children; it also regularly changes the product, so kids constantly need to buy more.

I think the games are acceptable if they are limited, and if the children understand several things about them:

- Knowledge. They need to understand that these are ersatz games with real consequences. At the child's level, explain the manipulation of marketing and the creation of desire by the manufacturers. In the ongoing struggle to impart values, help children to avoid using, having or lacking amounts of this current craze item as a measure of self-worth or the worth of others.

- Don't condemn their desire — we are all subject to marketing pressures — but it's important for your children to understand what is happening to them.

- Limits. Introduce moderation. I recommend limiting the amount purchased to what you consider a reasonable expenditure of money, even if children are using their own spending money. Don't replace lost items — otherwise, children will not learn to accept the consequences of playing.

Parents may want to advise children to leave some of the items at

home. You can turn the whole thing into a game at home, where you play with the children with no real consequences. I would recommend playing without real consequences within the family — making home a safe place where a game is really a game. You can have a communal pot, so wins and losses don't really matter.

Encourage your kids not to participate in any game in which the rules are that you must play till the end of your stock, or for a minimum time. I call these "sucker rules."

Encourage them to recognize these rules and not get sucked in by them. In this manner they will learn to play "for real" but with some knowledge, limits and self control.

It would be good to learn, by identification, not to humiliate or push others into impossible situations — for example, not to take all their cards. It's useful for children to learn that their elation doesn't depend on another's devastation.

- Conflict. Children need to think about what they are willing to risk in order to acquire more. They need to learn to balance the excitement and joy of winning with the devastation of losing.

Here, children can learn moderation, stopping and not needing to acquire all. You might set a rule that when they've lost a certain number of cards or discs, that's the time to stop.

These games often arouse a great desire to cheat or steal. There's a lot of taking in schools of other kids' cards and Pogs.

When you talk to your kids, you can clear that up. Make sure they know that, no matter how much they may want it, it's not okay to take someone else's property.

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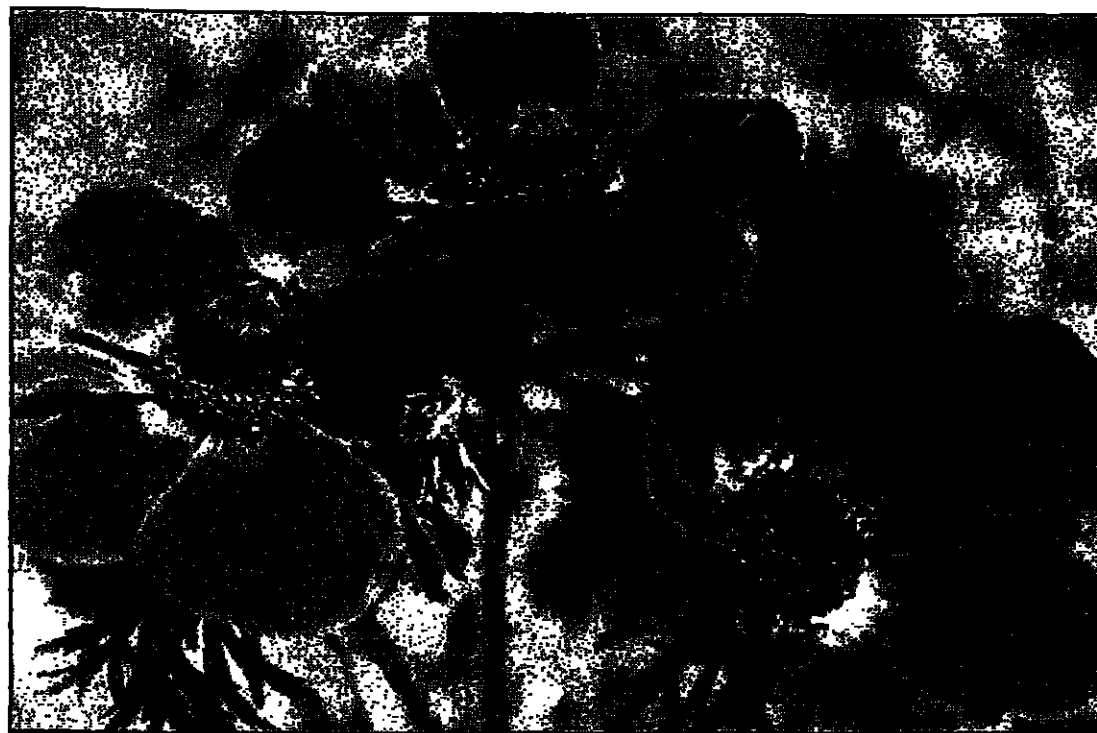


Corner



By Batsheva Mink

Anemones – carpets of native color



The anemone can be coaxed into flowering through eight months of the year – but in Israel it sticks to its natural flowering time of late winter and spring. (David Drom)

If you travel through the North during the early part of the year you will come across magnificent carpets of red, pink, white or blue anemones.

Often mistaken for poppies, these beautiful flowers have been part of the European garden scene for over 300 years, and many gardeners may not realize that they originated in this part of the world.

Considering its small size, Israel contains a diversity of native plants matched in few places elsewhere. In all, Israel "hosts" approximately 6,380 species of plants; 3,600 are indigenous, while 2,780 have been introduced here over the centuries.

By comparison, Great Britain, which is 10 times the size of Israel, has only 1,600 different plant species.

The richness of flora in the Holy Land is explained primarily by its location. The country is a nexus between Asia and Africa, with travelers, merchants and pilgrims passing through over thousands of years. It also lies between a sea – the Mediterranean – and a desert. It is thus home to representatives of plant life from different continents and climatic zones.

Twenty years ago, when I started to grow wildflowers in my garden, I was considered eccentric. Today, owing to urbanization and pollution, it is becoming a more popular thing to do.

Anemones are the No. 1 cut flower of the florist trade from October to April. Growing them yourself will give you beautiful blooms during the late winter and spring.

THE anemone has a history comparable to that of the lily and the rose. It dates from the days of Theophrastus (371-287 BCE), and takes its name from the Greek *anemos*, the wind, hence their popular name, windflowers.

It was named for the wind because it was usually found growing in exposed areas. But the flower really prefers gentle breezes to cold winds.

Anemone coronaria is a member of the buttercup family (*Ranunculaceae* Heb. *kalanti*), and it also grows elsewhere in the Mediterranean region. The plants are usually bought as corms, which, if planted in the autumn, will flower eight weeks later.

By the end of the 17th century the anemone was available in 3,000 varieties, and for the next hundred years it remained one of the most popular florists' flowers, along with the rose and tulip.

One reason is because it can be coaxed into flowering eight months of the year. Its natural flowering time is spring, but after being brought into Europe it changed its habits.

In Europe it is usually planted in the spring for summer flowering. Here in Israel, though, it sticks to its natural flowering time of late winter and springtime.

OUR native plant has undergone many changes over the last 200 years.

The flower became very popular in France during the 19th century. It was around the Caen and Bayeux districts of northern France that the anemone was first grown commercially. Growers developed one of the finest strains of a single-flowered type, which became known as the Caen or Bayeux anemone, named after the area where it was raised.

At the same time it became recognized as a florist's flower in

England. It was popular because plants could be obtained in bloom during the winter and early spring, months when the country was often covered in snow.

The Garland anemone, which we now call the St. Brigid or double anemone, was well known to the Tudors and was to be found in every cottage garden.

During the last 30 years, Dr. Ora Horowitz of the Hebrew University has developed hybrid strains from crosses between the Israeli anemone and the Caen type. These varieties, with large goblet-shaped blooms in different colors, are exported as cut flowers during the winter months. They also grow very well in pots and boxes.

HERE are some useful growing

instructions:

Position: Full sun or partial shade.

Soil preparation: Anemones like loose soil, so dig over the plot and add a little compost to break up the soil. Level the soil with a rake.

Planting: Gardeners are never sure which side of the corm is up. Plant them placing the "eye" uppermost, not closer than 10 cm. apart. Do not bury them too deeply. A good rule of thumb is to plant the same depth as the size of the corm itself. In other words, if the corm is 1/2 cm. high, make sure there's only 1/2 cm. of soil on top of it.

Watering: After 16 days you should notice parsley-like leaves appearing. Once they have started to grow, don't let them run

short of water.

Feeding: To prolong flowering and increase the amount of flowering stems, feed with a liquid fertilizer every eight to 10 days.

Aftercare: To encourage lots of flowers, cut off the dead flowers to the "collar," the small leaves growing out from the flowering stem, approximately 3-7 cm. under the flower.

Anemones dislike being watered during the summer months, when they are dormant. So if you have an irrigation system that runs all summer, you may want to dig up the corms and replant them the following season. Cut back the top growth and store in a cool, dark place in a box or bag with peat moss (Heb. *kavul*) mixed in.

Propagation: Anemones may be raised from seed, though the seeds take longer to flower and the flowers may not resemble the parent plants, from which the seeds were taken.

After the flowers fade, you will notice fluffy "cotton wool" developing in the flower head. This protects the seeds and helps to disperse them.

Leave the flower head for a week or two to dry out and then carefully rub with a little dry sand to separate the seeds from the fluff. Sow the seeds in trays during autumn.

Batsheva Mink is a curator of the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, Givat Ram.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, POB 3943, Jerusalem 91039.

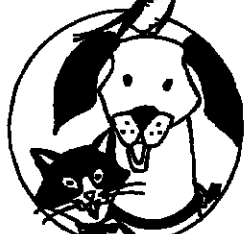
TIP OF THE WEEK

Anemones may be propagated by division of the corms.

Divide the corms once the foliage has died. Wash clean of soil and divide them before they harden. Even the smallest pieces will produce "eyes" from which there will be new growth.

After cutting with a sharp knife, the pieces must be dipped into a fungicide or powdered charcoal to guard against fungus entering the wounds. Store them as you would dormant corms, in a cool, dark place in a box or bag with peat moss mixed in.

Heads 'N' Tails



By Dvora Ben Shaul

The best way to keep dogs from congregating around the house when your bitch is in estrus (heat) is to either spray her or give her hormone injections to prevent this condition.

But if, like a reader in Kfar Sava, you do not want to do either, but want simply to keep the bitch when she's in heat, there are a few tricks to help prevent a siege by canine suitors, which can be a torture. (This is especially true when the "suitors" start to fight among themselves, as they can be quite frightening.)

The first thing to do is to buy a good-sized bottle of oil of citronella from a pharmacy. Keep some in the bottle and put the rest into an atomizer or other spraying device.

When you take the bitch out for a walk, first wipe her hind-quarters and her feet with the citronella. I suggest you use the heavy-duty cloth-like paper towels, as you must discard each one after use. You should also take a plastic bag containing two cloths moistened with the citronella solution.

Never allow the bitch to relieve herself in the garden or the vicinity of the house; take her a good distance away. (I know one man who has an enemy a few streets away. He takes his bitch to the area of the enemy's home, but I can't say I recommend this.)

When the dog has finished, wipe her hindquarters well with one of the cloths, then walk a

How to prevent a siege by canine suitors



MEIR ROSENBERG

short distance away and wipe all four feet. Walk the bitch home by a slightly different route, perhaps crossing the street.

Once home, spray the doorstep, entrance area, and so on with the atomizer of citronella.

This should pretty well mask the traces of odor from a bitch in heat. Once the first signs of estrus appear, do not let her out for a full 21 days without taking

these precautions.

In addition to citronella, a very strong tea made of wild verbena leaves (also called lemon verbena) will also do the trick, but it isn't quite as strong as the oil. It is, however, cheaper and quite effective. Verbena leaves can be purchased in a shop that sells herbal remedies and teas of herbal origin.

All of these preventive measures are a lot of trouble, and your house

will be strongly scented with a lemony-sweet smell. Moreover, none of these steps is guaranteed fool-proof.

But they do help: even if there is one persistent chap out there who seems to have a keener sense of smell than average, you can usually cope with one single canine suitor. It's suitors en masse that make one want to emulate Odysseus and slaughter them all.

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סכר מן האבן

The making of Israeli rock

By BARRY DAVIS

No one has done more for rock in this country than radio presenter and sometime percussionist, Yoav Kutner. And no one is better qualified to mastermind a series about the history of the musical genre in this country.

The title of this 12-part series - *End of the Orange Season* (part 1 on Channel 1, tonight at 8:05) - comes from a song played by one of the seminal Israeli rock bands of the early 1970s, Tammuz, whose members included the likes of fun songster-turned-Mediterranean-musician Ariel Zilber and local musical icon Shalom Hanoch.

But, like all stars of the burgeoning local rock scene of three decades ago, Hanoch and a multitude of other now household names - Arik Einstein, Shlomo Artzi, Danny Sanderson and Gidi Gov to name but a few - served their musical apprenticeship in army line-ups. It is here, Kutner tells us, that the first seeds of Israeli rock were sown. Mention the name Tzvi Yungreiss or The Echoes to your average Israeli - even to those of the right generation - and their response will probably be summed up in a perfunctory "Huh?"

But, in 1963, Yungreiss and his cohorts were responsible for this country's very first rock song. "It wasn't a revolution," muses Kutner, "but at least it was a start."

The few bars played on Yungreiss's raunchy-sounding electric guitar and some well-worn archival footage of various military groups bring home the enormous musical chasm that would have to be traversed from the ruddy-cheeked, check-shirted local kibbutz choir to groups that made sounds more akin to Elvis.

In the early 1960s, the prevailing sound in popular Israeli music was inspired by French chanson-style and Russian-style ballads. Military groups and bands formed by army veterans - such as The Roosters - duly set their musical fare to the lilting sound of flutes and accordions. At this stage, popular music was still very much tied to its idealistic apron strings.

The Establishment, Kutner tells us, was wary of "new sound" infiltrating the ranks of true-blue



In the 1960s, the Churchills wanted to be this country's answer to the Beatles.

Zionism and the political leadership feared a cultural takeover by the dark powers of rock 'n' roll. The Beatles were refused permission to appear in this country - such was the overriding political spirit of the times.

The first episode of *End of the Orange Season* contains historical footage of bands which, while likely to induce the viewer to issue a nostalgic sigh or two, may also produce a tear of two of hysterical laughter. In 1963, most references to the pop revolution taking place in the West was in the form of parody, such as in the popular The Yarkon Bridge's spoof of Elvis Presley in "Shake." These were the days when aspiring young rock groups rehearsed with the drummer manually slapping the beat out on his legs in deference to the neighbors' insistence on quiet.

In 1967, the Six Day War elevated army troupes to an almost exalted status. Euphoria ran high, and the country's military prowess was exemplified by a plethora of IDF bands singing wholesome tunes about wholesome subjects. However, popular rocker Boaz Sharabi tells us that entry to military groups was definitely not a matter of what you could do, but more of from whence you came. Sharabi and several other figures from today's rock local scene say that they didn't even audition for IDF bands, knowing full well that they were not considered to be of "the right stuff."

But - as Mr. Dylan would have it - times were a-changing. Post-Six Day War Israel could not remain isolated from the outside world forever, and local rock bands began to sprout in increasing numbers.

Foremost among the pioneers of the local genre was The Churchills. With a line-up featuring the likes of Micky Gabriellov and solo guitarist Haim Romano, The Churchills played exclusively Western rock numbers, and only in English. The band's drummer Meir Yisrael talks nostalgically about receiving a Beatles LP by mail from relatives in the US. "That's what we wanted to be," Yisrael recalls. "We dressed like them and we sang like them - we were the Beatles." But, as often is the case with foreign influences imported wholesale, there was a



Yoav Kutner presents a history of local music on Channel 1.

farfetched aspect to the early days of the local rock scene.

Sharabi confesses that, when his repertoire ran out and the audience wanted more, he would improvise American and English rock songs as he went along. Veteran rock guitarist and producer Gary Eckstein concurs: "Do you think anyone actually understood the lyrics?" he ventures.

Eventually even the army bands began to undergo a metamorphosis, and soon the military beat began to change as guitars and strident drumming replaced the accordion and the flute. But not everyone was enthralled by the fusion of new and old. Veteran jazz drummer Ariele Kaminsky thought the mix of rock beat and Russian tunes laughable, while the grand dame of musical tradition Naomi Shemer is seen telling an IDF band that while she is quite partial to the new rock elements, they would not do for her own songs.

Occasionally, Kutner's unbridled love for Israeli music and his personal nostalgia trip are tempered by the interviewees' own version of how things were at the time. In the second episode of the series we are privy to a rare interview with Israel's popular music icon - Arik Einstein - who refutes Kutner's claim that the annual Israeli Song Festival of the mid-60s provided the public with an opportunity to hear the cream of the local talent.

"Rubbish," Einstein fires back. "The best - The Churchills and the

like - were somewhere else, playing the clubs." He slams his own material of the 1960s as a poor imitation of the real McCoy coming out of America and Britain. "It has some nostalgia value, but no more than that," Einstein states unequivocally.

But Einstein himself was a pioneer in using popular music as a vehicle for making controversial, even audacious, social comment. The 1965 number "Chocolate Soldier," sung by Einstein and fellow members of The High Windows, Josie Katz and Shmuel Krausz, was the first anti-war song in the still young State of Israel and was summarily banned from the radio. And, of course, Einstein's synergy with Shalom Hanoch produced the seminal 1969 album and movie *Shabulul*.

"Did you feel you were producing something new?" Kutner asks Einstein. "No," comes the reply, "you never do at the time."

End of the Orange Season is a labor of love. It was three years in the making, and Kutner seemingly leaves no stone unturned, no important contributor to the Israeli rock music industry unreviewed.

Ultimately, the story - thus far - has a happy ending. The dream of the Sixties, the desperate attempt by Israeli youth to break through their geographical and cultural borders, has developed into a prosperous full-scale industry which is now an inseparable part of the country's pastiche.

The risks of life as an artist

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

When Kitty Margolis left her home in San Francisco to study filmmaking and still photography at Harvard, she had a very clear idea of what she wanted to do in life. But "the same week I started school, I auditioned for my first professional band and got in, so I had a double life. During weekdays I was in school and over the weekends I was singing."

Ever since, music has ruled the day for Margolis, who was described by trumpeter Roy Hargrove as a "hard-hitting improviser and a soulful interpreter. This girl is swinging!"

Yet the actual decision to bid photography goodbye and concentrate on music came by coincidence, Margolis - who makes her Israeli debut tonight - recalled in a phone conversation from her home in San Francisco. "One day all my cameras were stolen and I took the insurance money and bought a sound system and that was it. I was a good photographer and I'm still somewhat visual and would love to go back to it. But now I have no time for that, although I do miss it."

Music has always been part of Margolis's life. "I've been singing since I can remember. I was bitten by the music bug at three years old. San Francisco was a center for music back then. The big music revolution happened here when I was a little kid." But jazz came somewhat later - only after Margolis dreamed of becoming Joni Mitchell with a guitar.

"My father had a jazz record collection and when I returned home after college, [San Francisco] was an area of lots of clubs and suddenly I was struck by jazz."

As far as Margolis is concerned, "jazz is the most challenging music to sing and has the most diverse and the most interesting, educated, sophisticated audience. People who listen to jazz are pretty intelligent and cultured in terms of music. It's almost like the audience of classical music but more diverse. You will find a much more mixed audience in a jazz club than in the concert hall: old and young, black and white, male and female, Hispanic and Asian - especially here in San Francisco."

For the past two decades, she has been slowly but surely embarking on an impressive international career. And today she sings regularly in concert halls all over the world, yet she still misses the smaller venues



Kitty Margolis: 'Jazz is the most challenging music to sing.'

and jazz clubs of yesteryear. "I really love small clubs but they are almost dead now. The venues that seat 300-550 are not bad, other than that you lose the intimacy."

Yet in larger halls as well, she always realizes that "there are people with hearts out there, and I try to feel more of them by talking and hearing them laugh."

Margolis describes herself as a musician who does "a lot of interesting arrangements." She adds: "And I write a lot of music. In my last CD, I radically reconstructed and deconstructed the songs of the past to give them my stamp and to sing them the way I sing them, and so they sound more contemporary than they originally did. We adapt these songs to the '90s. I've been happy to reinvent these tunes."

Although Margolis concentrates on jazz standards of the past, she argues that even "if you paid me \$1,000, I wouldn't be able to sing a song the same way night after night. Nothing is memorized, I'm always improvising melodically. The tunes don't end the same way night after night and the band has to follow me. The notes are certainly different every night, in mood, in inflection, in the subtleties."

Today her home in San Francisco is her sanctuary, she says. "I'm fairly private when I'm home. I keep my house as a sanctuary. I cook and I go to the farmers' market. I see my friends and spend time with my husband. Yet this sanctuary also serves as her office, although she tries to leave the doors closed as much as possible. "I manage myself but I have several agents doing the day-to-day work for me. Managing is a necessary evil which I do not like doing but I

must admit that I do like the control."

Perhaps it is a way to balance the insecure life of a performing artist? "The toughest part of this career is being comfortable with the risks of life as an artist. But having said that I have this gift just to remember that I am lucky that I was chosen to do it. It definitely chooses you and not the other way around, and you have to decide whether you're going to serve it or not."

It is past midnight when we finish our conversation but Margolis does not think of going to sleep. Not just yet. "Oh, I have at least three more hours in front of me," she says, her warm smile coming through the transatlantic phone call.

In Israel, Kitty Margolis will not be singing with her regular band. "I'm an integral part of the band and not a singer in front of the band. It's all a sort of a conversation between all the musicians. It's improvised music - never the same, different all the time."

She will be joined though by Eric Crystal, "a great sax player. He's a wonderful young talent who has been in the band for 18 months; he's a discovery." They will be joined by some of the leading local jazz musicians as well.

"I'm a person who likes to take the risk, otherwise I wouldn't do it," she says. "Part of it is meeting musicians all over the world and creating magic with strangers."

Kitty Margolis sings tomorrow at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem at 8:30 p.m.; on Friday at 10 p.m. at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center; and on Saturday at 9 p.m. at Yad Lashimon in Ashdod.

Dance Co. reveals 'naked kibbutz'

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

For many people, dance in Israel means Batsheva, and Ohad Naharin.

But those who are not familiar with the work of Rami Be'er and the Kibbutz Dance Company - who usually work far from the madding crowd in a small kibbutz close to the Lebanese border, are missing one of the most exciting artistic enterprises in Israel.

Be'er, who was appointed artistic director of the KDC two years ago, has been a member of the company since 1980. After dancing for a dozen years and choreographing for the company, he became assistant artistic director to founder Yehudit Arnon. Over the last seven years, the company has first and foremost been dancing Be'er's full-length works, starting with *Real Time* six years ago and followed annually by *Naked City*, *Aide Memoire*, *Makom Shehu*, *When Most I Wink* and *Masa Sod* ("Secret Journey").

Each and every one of these works was enthusiastically greeted by the public and critics alike all over the world.

Those who haven't seen *Naked City*, a work initially created for the dance company of the Graz opera house in Austria, in 1991, and which has not been performed by the KDC for over four years, now have a chance to watch the work on a big stage when the company appears at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center this Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

Be'er, a strikingly beautiful blond who looks much younger than his 40 years, and who resides on Kibbutz Ga'aton where the company has its home, recalls that the original idea of *Naked City* was "to have a work dealing with the big urban city. It is a work built in huge contrasts - in the movement, in the music and in its visual look." The musical collage is based mostly on the works of John Zorn but also features compositions by Schmitke and Monk.

Created for a classical ballet-oriented company, *Naked City* is clearly rooted in classical ballet techniques and frame of mind. Thus when Be'er took the work to the KDC he obviously had to make some changes. "And even now when we sort of do a new premiere of the piece, I have [made]

more changes and I must admit that I like the work best in its current final form."

He confides that, in more ways than one, the title, which is both literal and metaphorical, "can also be related to today's kibbutz. Our company mirrors the world of the kibbutz. Long ago, the idea was to have a framework for kibbutz members to get together and dance. Today about three quarters of the company members are not kibbutz members and about half of our dancers are actually from abroad. Yes, in many respects, one can say that the kibbutz is naked as well."

Be'er also designed the sets, costumes and lighting for *Naked City* as he usually does for all his full-length works (around 70 minutes without intermission). "The works are obviously centered around the dancers but the movement is only one facet of the entire art work."

Be'er will talk about *Naked City*, his work and company on



Rami Be'er

Saturday (11 a.m.) at the TAPAC in a special presentation in which the dancers will present several excerpts from the work.

Folk tunes preserved for posterity

CLASSIC DISCS

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

In its ongoing effort to discover musical works written by little-known Jewish composers, Beth Hatefutsoth (the Diaspora Museum) has produced a new disc focusing on cello music written by St. Petersburg composers at the turn of the century.

In *The St. Petersburg School* (BTR 9801), cellist Uri Vardi, born in Hungary, raised in Israel and currently teaching at the University of Wisconsin, takes the listener on a Jewish journey through a very rich folklore tradition as it is manifest in the classical works of composers such as Solomon Rosowsky (1878-1962), Joseph Achron (1886-1943), Alexander Veprik (1899-1958) and Leo Zeitlin (1884-1930), to name but a few.

Obviously the main reason for writing these relatively short works (around three minutes each) was to enable both amateur and professional musicians to

play showpieces based on the rich Jewish musical tradition.

At the same time, it was a way to preserve both familiar and unfamiliar folk melodies in print and give them a classical face-lift. Vardi delves with all his heart into these folk-oriented melodies and plays them with all the pathos and occasional schmaltz they call for.

Accompanied by Uriel Tzabor on the piano, he manages to bring life to music that is rarely, if ever, performed these days.

Of course, the real purpose of each disc produced by the Feher Jewish Music Center of Beth Hatefutsoth is preservation and discovery. This time around, though, the result is also an enjoyable disc that suggests, yet again, that the cello is probably the instrument closest in its sound to the human voice and its melodic flow can elicit a joyful tear from anyone who enjoys this music.

An added bonus is the final piece on the disc, a lyric fragment by Alexander Krein (1883-1951) for four cello played with warmth by Vardi and three younger cellists, Maya Blumenfeld, Amit Peled and Mickey Katz.

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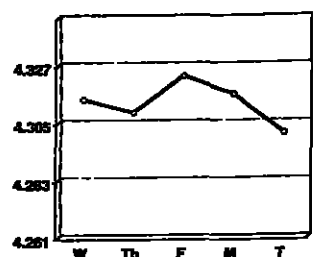
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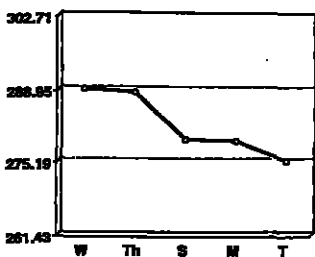
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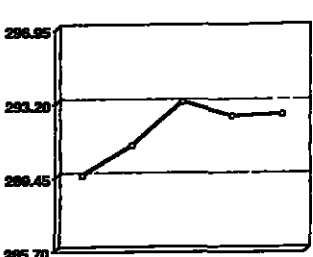


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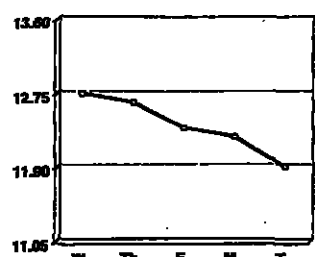
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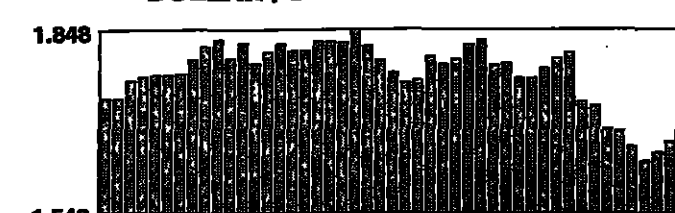


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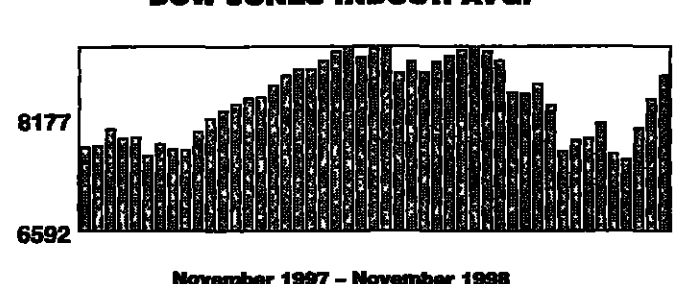
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Budgetary arrangements bill reenters Knesset

Cabinet secretary Dan Naveh yesterday returned the budgetary arrangements bill to the Knesset, after coalition whip Meir Sheetrit decided to withdraw it two weeks ago, when it became clear a majority of MKs were not in favor. The bill accompanies the 1999 state budget and in many ways is more important, as it contains the specifics of the budget and Treasury plans for a variety of changes across the economy. Speaker Dan Tichon will decide when to reintroduce the bill for first reading. This, according to Finance Ministry spokesman Eli Yosef, will depend on when the government and senior coalition MKs feel the time is ripe. This could happen only after the vote on the Wye agreement, he added.

David Zev Harris

No intention to change exchange mechanism

There is presently no intention to change the exchange rate mechanism, the Treasury said last night. The comment followed media reports to the contrary in light of the shekel's recent depreciation against the dollar and other major currencies in the trading basket. "The fact that the exchange rate is presently at the mid-point in its trading band means there's no need to change the limits of the band," the Treasury said. It added it does not intervene in currency trading as this is exclusively the realm of the Bank of Israel.

David Zev Harris

EU: Israel notes EU-PA trade pact

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

Israel has for the first time told the European Union that it acknowledges the existence of an interim trade agreement between Brussels and the Palestinian Authority, European Commission Counsellor in Tel Aviv Michael Ryan said yesterday.

Until a meeting this weekend between top Israeli and European officials, Jerusalem had been unprepared to acknowledge the relationship between the EU and the PA, because it implies that the territories are a separate customs area from Israel.

The agreement, which came into force in August 1997, sets the framework for a free

trade relationship between the parties. "While it did acknowledge this for the first time, the Israeli side disagreed on its territorial coverage," said Ryan. Among the outstanding questions are those concerning the levels of Israeli sovereignty over Areas A, B, and C.

The Israeli delegation returned home with a more guarded view of the meeting. "We said very clearly we will facilitate the implementation of the EU-PA agreement [which is the EU-PA interim agreement] on condition that it does not contradict the Paris protocol [which is the 1994 economic agreement between Israel and PA] and does not prejudice any kind of political subject that is on the agenda of the final settlement,"

said Victor Harel, deputy director-general for economic affairs at the Foreign Ministry. This is the first concrete hint that Jerusalem may be prepared to accept that Israel and territories do not add up to a single customs envelope, as defined in the Paris agreement.

Acceptance of the PA-EU agreement would open the way to far greater three-way trade among Israel, the PA, and Europe.

While Jerusalem described the meeting as very good and moving the sides closer to an agreement on an ongoing trade dispute, Ryan said the meeting was held in a good atmosphere, "but nothing was achieved on the substance."

Brussels sources said luck fell on Israel's

side as the meeting was held so soon after the Wye agreement, making for a much better background to the talks. "The Israeli delegation struck at the right moment and bought some time, but who knows how long we can carry on discussing," said one official. Ryan maintains the gap will take some time to bridge.

The disagreement between Israel and the EU is based on a document issued by the Europeans in May, which condemned the use of "Made in Israel" labeling for goods produced in the territories.

The issue was to have been discussed at a meeting of the European Council of Ministers on Monday, but time did not allow for this.



Golden pigs

Pigs enjoy fresh water in a farm in Ratchaburi, 130 kilometers south of Bangkok. Pig droppings, once reviled by neighbors, are now a source of envy because they also provide valuable and odorless methane gas used for cooking and generating power. The state-run National Energy Policy Office is encouraging more and more pig farms to participate in the 'Golden Pig Droppings' Program to install facilities that transform pig waste into energy.

Toys R Us, Hypertoy to be Israel's largest toy chain

By DAN GERSTENFELD

In the face of falling sales, toy retailers Toys R Us and Hypertoy yesterday announced a planned merger which will create the country's largest toy chain.

The two companies, which currently fail to show profitability, did not disclose details but said the combined chain will employ some 900 workers.

The deal, which was signed on Monday, still needs the approval of the Anti-Trust Authority.

The companies said that in the face of rising competition they had to combine their activities.

Industry sources expressed hope that the merger will help reviving the sluggish toy market, which has been negatively affected by the economic slowdown.

Controlled by businessman Eliezer Fishman, Hypertoy is the country's largest toy retailer with 14 branches. The company was established in 1991 as a self-service store for toys in Petah Tikva and became a chain in 1994.

Hypertoy was the first in Israel to provide

supermarket-style shopping for toys, free parking and convenient strategic mall locations.

The local franchise of Toys R Us is held by Leon Koffler of the Super-Pharm group and David Solomon of Philadelphia.

The chain, which started its activity here only three years ago, operates three branches.

Toys R Us, based in Paramus, New Jersey, operates some 1,500 stores worldwide. The company is the world's largest toy retailer, despite the fact that it has been losing market share gradually in recent years.

French, German inflation hit new lows

PARIS (Bloomberg) — France's inflation rate fell to its lowest in more than 40 years in October, while Germany's rate fell to a seven-year low, giving the European Central Bank room to cut interest rates next year to sustain economic growth.

France's consumer price index was unchanged or fell 0.1 percent in October from September, and rose 0.4%-0.5% from a year earlier, the lowest annual rate since the 1950s, the state institute Insee said. German prices fell 0.2% from September and rose 0.7% annually, a seven-year low.

Inflation in France and Germany, which account for about 55% of the 11-nation euro currency region economy, has ceased to concern policy makers as they shift focus to countering an economic slowdown and steadying the exchange rate of the dollar against the currencies entering the monetary union.

The dollar fell 11% against the franc from late August to early October, though it has climbed 4.5% since. A weaker dollar further cuts European inflation by reducing the cost of imports but also hurts growth by making European exports more expensive on world markets. An ECB rate cut could boost the dollar against the euro by making deposits in the European currency less attractive.

In September, French prices were unchanged in the month and rose 0.5% from a year earlier. Economists polled had expected prices to rise 0.1% in October and 0.5% in the year. Today's report was preliminary. Final figures are expected on November 25.

In Germany, prices rose 0.8% from a year ago in September. Yesterday's numbers were in line with expectations because Western Germany, which accounts for 90% of Germany's economy, had already reported preliminary figures.

New high-tech center to help housebound

By JUDY SIEGEL

A center to promote the development and use of high-tech products by disabled and elderly people in Israel and the US was founded this week by Eshel (the Association for the Planning and Development of Services for the Aged in Israel) and the Institute for Applied Gerontology (IAG) in New York.

The two are investing a total of \$700,000 over the next three years, \$210,000 of it in the first year. Called Gerontech, the non-profit center aims at stimulating the development of new assistive technologies in both countries. These electronic devices will help handicapped and old people with their everyday living activities. Local industries will be encouraged to design and manufacture these products for the rapidly growing world market.

"The establishment of Gerontech will allow Eshel to broaden its role in improving the quality of life of the elderly population in Israel," said Eshel director-general Dr. Yitzhak Brick at the ceremony.

IAG president and CEO Eli Feldman, whose institute is the research and innovation arm of the Metropolitan Jewish Health System (MJHS) in New York, said the center "will make life easier and more enjoyable for the people served by both our organizations."

MJHS serves over 20,000 New Yorkers through a network of outpatient, home, institutional, managed care, and insurance programs. At first, Gerontech will offer a variety of support services to inventors, entrepreneurs, and investors thinking of getting

involved in the development of assistive products. Services will include technical and marketing assessments of product ideas, help with business-plan formation, and locating seed money to finance them.

Gerontech will be directed by Lawrence Normie, an engineer with much experience in the development, design and evaluation of new technologies. Normie plans to visit technology incubators, old age homes, geriatric care units, and consumer groups, as well as industrial, academic, and government officials who are interested in promoting home-grown assistive products industry.

Dimotech Ltd., a leading technology-transfer company set up by the Haifa Technion, will provide technical assistance under a cooperative agreement.

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US commerce secretary begins Mideast tour

WASHINGTON (AP) — US Commerce Secretary William Daley arrives in the Middle East today to promote regional economic cooperation.

Daley is scheduled to leave Wednesday for meetings with the leaders of Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Palestinian Authority, remaining in the region through November 17.

He will be the first US commerce secretary to visit Lebanon.

"The road to lasting peace must be built on economic stability and jobs," Daley said at a news conference. "We need to move from bombs to business."

He plans to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, PNA Chairman Yasser Arafat, Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan, and other

government and business leaders.

"It makes no sense that it should be easier for Israel to do business with Britain than it is with its neighbor Jordan," he said.

In addition to promoting regional cooperation, Daley said he will seek expanded opportunities for US businesses, which export \$11 billion in goods a year to the countries he is visiting.

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Connecticut favorite to rule Big East

Bremen coach wants 40-hour work week

NEW YORK (AP) — The Big East's 20th anniversary season finds the conference with a clear-cut favorite and some nagging questions.

Connecticut, ranked second in the country, was the coaches' unanimous choice in the conference's preseason poll. The Huskies return all five starters, including Big East player of the year Richard Hamilton, from the team that finished 32-5 and fell one game shy of the Final Four last season.

"People would be crazy not to rank us so high," Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun said. "That is where you want your program to be, considered among the best in the country. What you do once the season starts is a different story and that's where we'll find out if we have improved and can go farther."

While the Huskies are a convincing choice to win the regular-season title for the fifth time in six seasons, questions linger about the league's fall from the elite of the conference rankings.

Since the Big East went to 13 schools in 1995-96, its national presence hasn't been near what it was during the league's early years.

Sure, as commissioner Mike Tranghese pointed out, it's had highlights, including national championships won by Georgetown and Villanova and a Final Four with three Big East teams.

In 1991, it had seven teams in the NCAA tournament, the only conference to ever do that. And three years ago it became the first league with three consensus All-Americans: Kerry Kittles, Ray Allen and Allen Iverson.

Nonetheless, the league hasn't done much since then.

"We're not as loaded as we were in some past years," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said. "What have we fallen, all the way to fifth among the conferences? What happened in the first decade of this league was something nobody was going to be able to keep up."

Three teams in the Final Four, as the Big East had in 1985 with Villanova, Georgetown and St. John's, probably won't happen again for any league, but it's a pretty sure bet the Big East won't match its seven NCAA bids this season, either.

After Connecticut, No. 20 Syracuse is the only team considered a lock for the

NCAA BASKETBALL

postseason with Miami, St. John's and Georgetown all facing big questions as the season starts.

In addition to Hamilton, Connecticut returns conference rookie of the year Khalid El-Amin, outstanding defender Ricky Moore, unheralded forward Kevin Freeman and improving center Jake Voskuhl.

"With everybody talking, you just can't let it get to your head. You have to stay focused on the main goal of the team and that is winning," Voskuhl said. "You try not to read about yourself. It's not easy."

Syracuse has a very good point guard in Jason Hart and a dominating shot blocker in Eran Thomas. The Orangemen have to find some outside shooting or they could be hounded by their own recent trademark defense, a zone.

Miami, which reached the NCAA tour-

nament for the second time in school history last season, has to replace point guard Kevin Morris, the Hurricanes' leader on and off the court. Don't expect much of a dropoff on the defensive end, where Miami led the nation last season in field-goal defense at 37 percent.

St. John's says goodbye to four-year starters Felipe Lopez and Zendon Hamilton, who made just one NCAA appearance, and hello to new coach Mike Jarvis, who was at George Washington the last eight seasons, making the NCAA tournament four times. The Red Storm will rely heavily on sophomore forward Ron Artest and freshman point guard Erick Barkley.

Georgetown has the talent for a good season, but star guard Anthony Perry sat out last season for academic reasons and center Ruben Boumtje played just six games last season because of a wrist injury. Freshman Kevin Braswell will try and step in to settle the point guard situation.

Villanova has its top six players back as it tries to return to the postseason after last year's 12-17 record ended a four-year run. Pittsburgh coach Ralph Willard

can only hope the injuries that have plagued his team over the past few seasons finally end. It was so bad for the Panthers last season that all-league guard Vonteego Cummings averaged 40.5 minutes per game.

Rutgers hopes to use last year's run to the Big East tournament semifinals as a springboard, while Seton Hall will rely on point guard Shaheen Holloway as it tries to improve on last year's 15-15 mark in coach Tommy Amaker's first season.

Providence has new coach Tim Welsh, who led Iona to the NCAA tournament last season, and a solid forward in Jamel Thomas. West Virginia had a great run to the round of 16 as a No. 10 seed last year in the NCAA tournament, but all five starters are gone.

Notre Dame has to replace former league player of the year Pat Garrity. Boston College's top returning scorer is Kenny Harley at 4.5 points per game and the Eagles will not have a senior on the roster.

The league will compete as one 13-team division this season after three seasons split into two divisions.

BREMEN (AP) — New Werder Bremen coach Felix Magath thinks his players have it too good and he wants to introduce a 40-hour work week in the Bundesliga club.

"You'll never find anybody in the free-market economy who earns millions for working three hours a day," Magath was quoted as saying yesterday in the latest edition of the *Sport-Bild* magazine.

"I have the feeling that players here have it too good," Magath told the magazine.

Magath is known for his tough practice demands and iron discipline. The former Hamburg star was appointed as coach at Werder Bremen last month after the firing of Wolfgang Sidka.

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To the farthest corners

Coach Kareem brings message to remote reservation

WHITERIVER, Ariz. (AP) — At Alchessay High School, in the heart of the Apache Indian Reservation near Arizona's eastern edge, the new assistant basketball coach towers over the youngsters he teaches.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has come to these sheer rock cliffs and scrub pine-covered hills to coach boys who are only vaguely aware that he once dominated the game, that he scored more points than anyone in NBA history.

They are boys whose future seems as bleak as the barren landscape on the four-hour drive from Phoenix, and they are boys who love basketball.

Abdul-Jabbar, who volunteered for the job for a five-month salary of \$1, said he hopes to use the game to show his players there is a way to escape the hopelessness that seems to surround them.

"If you go to any barrio or inner-city ghetto or even Appalachia, you find some of the same problems that you find here — lack of economic opportunity, unemployment, poverty," he said.

"Hopefully, we will be able to change some of that and show them a way to get beyond those circumstances. If I can do it, coming from Harlem, the kids here can do it also. It's not impossible. I am living proof that it can be done."

Behind most of the simple, often run-down houses across the reservation, there is a makeshift backboard and basket.

Alchessay, named for an Apache chief who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, has a long history of basketball success. The gymnasium is a state-of-the-art jewel that contrasts sharply with its depressed surroundings.

Last year, the Falcons finished a surprising second in the state in their first year at Class 3A.

"We play in the dirt," 16-year-old Tony Parker said. "We play everywhere."

Abdul-Jabbar first came to this part of the country in 1995 while researching the Buffalo Soldiers, the black cavalry of the old West, for his book *Black Profiles in Courage*. He made friends, and when he suggested that he wanted to get into coaching, they suggested he serve as an assistant on the reservation.

Head coach Raul Mendoza gave his approval, and Abdul-Jabbar has been on the job a week. A whistle dangling from his neck, he is an animated leader during practice, shouting encouragement and criticism.

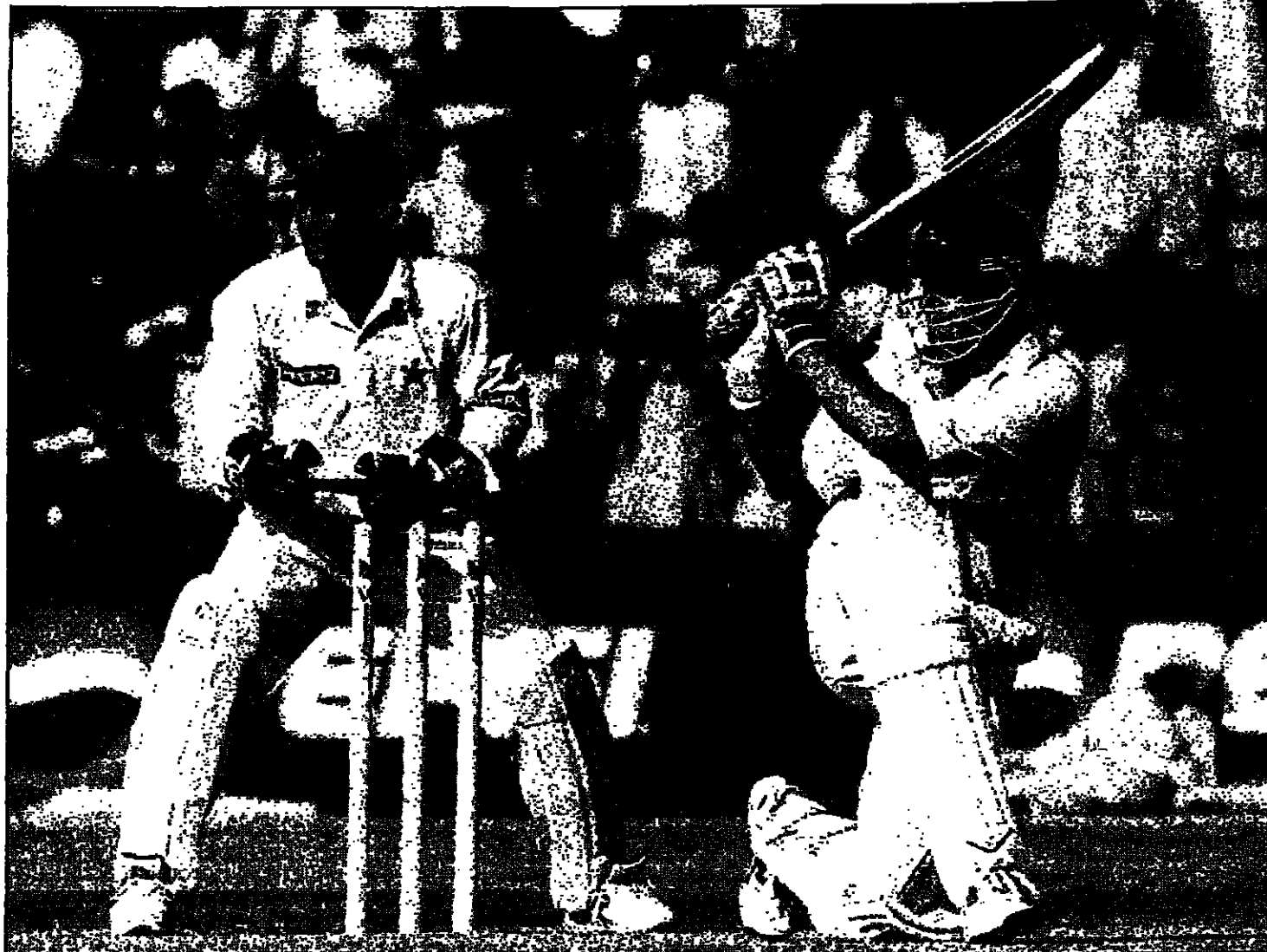
"No, no, no," he said, waving his long arms to interrupt a particularly sloppy fast-break drill. "Protecting the basketball is the most important thing you will do on the court. The basketball is precious!"

The players stand dead still as this 7-foot, 2-inch man speaks. "He's taught everybody to listen a lot better," Parker said, "to play at their own ability and not try to do too much."

Abdul-Jabbar even joined in the wind sprints, and did about as well as a 51-year-old could be expected to do. "That was a near-death experience," he said. "I still can run pretty fast, but definitely not as long. I lasted about 35 seconds."

Abdul-Jabbar, who says he has Indian blood on both sides of his family, said, "A lot of Native Americans have a contempt for education because it comes from the dominant culture, and anyone seen embracing education is seen as selling out. That does not have to be the case. Knowledge is power."

Abdul-Jabbar said, "I'm not looking to get an NBA player out of all of this. I'm hoping that we get an accountant or a lawyer or a doctor or an engineer who understands from playing this season that he can succeed, and bring those skills back here to Whiteriver. If we can get that done, we've done a great job."



FOR OPENERS — Australian opener Adam Gilchrist plays a ball off Pakistan's Shahid Afridi while 'keeper Moin Khan stands before the stumps in their third one-day international cricket Test yesterday.

Lara apologizes for tour delay

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — West Indies captain Brian Lara apologized yesterday for bringing his team to South Africa six days late for their historic tour.

Lara's side arrived in Johannesburg yesterday morning after resolving their dispute over pay and conditions with West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) in London the previous night.

"We are sorry if we caused offense and we apologize to the people of South Africa for the delay," Lara said.

Missing from the arrival party were fast bowlers Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose, who missed the flight from London on Monday.

Lara said the agreement reached between the WICB and the players on Monday night was confidential but was adamant there would be no more hiccups during the tour lasting almost four months.

"These things happen in sport. We hope that people will understand the situation," the West Indies captain said.

Record-breaking

Australian complete sweep
A record partnership of 193 between Adam Gilchrist who made 103 and Ricky Ponting (134 not out) powered Australia to a 3-0 sweep of the one-day series against Pakistan in Lahore yesterday to add to their 1-0 Test triumph.

Set a challenging target of 316 by a Pakistan team whose 315-8 was their biggest one-day score ever against Australia, the visitors won by six wickets with seven balls to spare.

Gilchrist, the 27-year-old left hander from Western Australia, notched his second one-day hundred in his 39th game while Tasmania's Ponting earned the man of the match title with his fifth century in 59 matches.

The two repaired damage caused by the early dismissal of Mark Waugh, who was trapped leg before by Wasim Akram for 13, with the total at 25.

The partnership was the highest

for any wicket between Australia and Pakistan, surpassing the previous best of 173 for the fourth wicket between Dean Jones and Steve Waugh at Perth in 1987.

Earlier, Pakistan were propelled to their highest ever total against Australia by centuries from Ijaz Ahmad and Yousaf Yohanna after Aamir Sohail won the toss and chose to bat.

They beat the previous highest of 286-7 at Trent Bridge in the 1979 World Cup in England.

England improve

England's Graham Thorpe and Mark Ramprakash breathed new life into the upcoming series with a magnificent record-breaking partnership against South Australia yesterday.

Thorpe smashed a career-best score of 223 not out while Ramprakash hit an unbeaten 140 as England batted out the final day at Adelaide Oval to force a draw.

England were 457 for four in their second innings when the match was stopped early because of poor light after starting the final day at 149 for four, just 11 runs clear of South Australia.

Thorpe and Ramprakash shared an unbroken partnership of 377 to beat the previous record of 368, set by the MCC's Wilfred Rhodes and C.A.G. Russell against South Australia in 1920-21, for the highest partnership by any touring team playing in Australia.

"We weren't aware of it until (12th man) Ben Hollis came out with some gloves and the message to keep going and that we only needed 10 more to get," Ramprakash said.

England's second innings performance was in stark contrast to their dismal display in the first innings when they were dismissed for just 187.

Thorpe and Ramprakash had come together on Monday afternoon with the tourists in trouble at 80 for four after South Australia had opened up a 138 run lead with a first innings score of 325.

But the two Englishmen responded to the task with a wonderful partnership, as records tumbled along the way.

Thorpe, starting the final day unbeaten on 30, began cautiously, taking his score along to 76 by lunch.

But the 29-year-old left-hander, who scored a century on his Test debut against Australia five years ago, returned to the wicket after the break to savage the South Australian attack.

In a brilliant display of power hitting, Thorpe raced from 76 to 201 between lunch and tea.

He moved from 100 to 200 in just 70 deliveries, belting 12 boundaries and four sixes. His final total of 223 also bettered his previous highest score in a first-class match of 222 for Surrey against Glamorgan in 1997.

Meanwhile, Ramprakash, whose performance was largely overshadowed by Thorpe's, continued to plug away, reaching his century off 228 balls, including 14 fours.

"The first session was hard work, they came at us quite hard and we had to knuckle down and concentrate very hard especially with the second new ball," Ramprakash said.

"After lunch we relaxed a bit more, particularly Graham who kept putting it into the stands. It was very enjoyable to watch from the other end."

England's performance provided a major boost to their confidence ahead of the first Test starting in Brisbane on November 20.

Court upholds Boycott's sentence

A French court in Grasse yesterday upheld a suspended three-month prison sentence on former England cricketer Geoffrey Boycott for beating his ex-lover.

Boycott, who refused to accept the original sentence handed down in his absence in January, was also ordered to pay a 50,000 francs (\$8,500) fine and a symbolic one franc in damages to his former girlfriend Margaret Moore.

The 58-year-old Yorkshireman said through his lawyers he would appeal.

Moore, 45, told the court Boycott beat her at a hotel in the exclusive Riviera resort Cap d'Antibes on October 2, 1996.

She claimed the former England batsman beat her up to 20 times following an argument over money.

Boycott denied beating her and said she fell during an argument. But Moore's advocate drew the court's attention to photographs of his client showing she had two black eyes and said she could not possibly have fallen onto one eye and then the other.

A's Grieve, Cubs' Wood top rookies



TOP FRESHMAN — Kerry Wood helped Cubs into playoffs with a 13-6 record, including a 20-strikeout, one hitter.

NEW YORK (AP) — Ben Grieve easily won the AL Rookie of the Year award yesterday, highlighting a season in which his sweet left-handed swing made an immediate impact.

The 22-year-old right fielder for the Oakland Athletics was the only candidate named on all 28 ballots. He received 23 first-place votes and five seconds to finish with 130 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Tampa Bay pitcher Rolando Arrojo earned four first-place votes and 61 points. Chicago shortstop Mike Caruso was third with 34 points, followed by New York's Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez who finished with 25 points and the other first-place vote.

Grieve, whose father Tom played in the major leagues and was the former general manager of the Texas Rangers, led AL rookies with 168 hits, 18 home runs, 94 runs, 41 doubles and 89 RBIs. He led the club in on-base percentage, at-bats, hits, doubles, walks and was second in runs. He batted .288 and made just two errors in the outfield.

Grieve is the fifth A's player to win the award, joining Walt Weiss (1988), Mark McGwire (1987), Jose Canseco (1986) and Harry Byrd (1952).

A September call-up by the A's in 1997, Grieve hit three doubles and drove in five runs in his major league debut against San Francisco. In 24 games that year,

he batted .312 with three homers and 24 RBIs, making him the early favorite for this year's rookie award.

He met those expectations at the start of this season, hitting higher than .300 in each of the first three months and becoming the first Oakland rookie since McGwire to play in the All-Star game. He slumped in the second half, hitting just .258 after the break.

Arrojo and Hernandez, both Cuban defectors, were the top rookie pitchers in the AL. Arrojo, who defected during the 1996 Olympics, went 14-12 with a 3.56 ERA and made the All-Star team. Hernandez, who fled Cuba on a raft last December, went 12-4 with a 3.13 after being called up on June 3.

Caruso led AL rookies with a .306 average, but made 35 errors at shortstop.

Chicago's Kerry Wood, who grew up just a few miles from Grieve in Texas and played against him in high school, won the NL Rookie of the Year award on Monday.

Wood comes from Grand Prairie High School, Class of '95, and Grieve was part of the Class of '94 at James W. Martin High School in neighboring Arlington.

"I grew up playing against him in high school and he's always been a great player," Wood said Monday. "We've talked more this season than we had all of high school. We didn't like each other in high school. It's something to see, two

Dalglish bids for Celtic

GLASGOW (AP) — Former Celtic great Kenny Dalglish and pop star Jim Kerr head a consortium that is poised to make a multi-million-pound takeover bid for the Scottish league champion, the club confirmed yesterday.

The club released a statement saying the group headed by Dalglish and Kerr, lead singer of Simple Minds, had requested a meeting with Celtic's majority shareholder, chairman and managing director Fergus McCann.

McCann released a statement reiterating his stance that his preference remains to split his holdings among several existing parties.

Earlier, when media reports of the possible takeover first circulated, there was frenzied dealing on the London Stock Exchange. Celtic's shares went up nearly 40 percent, adding £12.9 million to its market value.

Dalglish, former manager at Liverpool, Blackburn and Newcastle, is seeking to make an emotional return to the Scottish club where he first made his name.

The British domestic news agency Press Association said Dalglish would take on a role as shareholder/owner but would also have a major interest on the soccer side, with a manager or coach being brought in under him.

Dalglish made 324 appearances for Celtic between 1963 and 1977, and also set a national record of 102 appearances for Scotland. He is currently out of soccer after being fired as Newcastle manager earlier this season.

Dalglish has already been linked with the general manager's post at Celtic, which became vacant following the resignation of Jock Brown last Saturday.

Celtic won the Scottish League title last season after nine years of dominance by archrival Rangers. Celtic has struggled this season following the departure of coach Win Janzen.

The club has been eliminated from the Champions Cup, the UEFA Cup, the Scottish League Cup and lies third in the Scottish Premier League — seven points behind leaders Rangers.

FA appoints first

anti-corruption official
A 37-year-old police officer has been appointed as the England Football Association's first man in the fight against corruption and misconduct in the national game.

Graham Bean, who has served as national chairman of the Football Supporters Association for the past two years, was appointed yesterday as the FA's first "compliance officer." He takes up the post in January.

The FA said Bean's role will be to oversee issues of financial irregularities, drug abuse, racism, violent play and general misconduct. "As compliance officer, he will be responsible for investigating and, where appropriate, prosecuting disciplinary cases and alleged breaches of the FA's rules and regulations," an FA statement said.

Bean has spent 14 of his 18 years' service as a detective with the South Yorkshire Police. As well as general criminal investigation, he has served with the force's serious crime, drugs and fraud squads.

Flyers grounded again

MONTREAL (AP) — Two goals by Brian Savage sparked the Montreal Canadiens to a 5-1 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers Monday night.

Martin Rucinsky, Turner Stevenson and Shayne Corson also scored for the Canadiens (6-5-2), who scored on their first three shots on goal and now have won three in a row.

Alexander Daigle scored the lone goal for the Flyers (5-5-4), who have gone winless in their last six (0-4-2).

Islanders 3, Maple Leafs 1
Toronto goaltender Curtis Joseph gave up three goals on six shots in the third period as New York Islanders won on the road. The Maple Leafs outshot the

Islanders 39-19 for the game, but New York goalie Tommy Salo was superb as the Islanders ended a two-game losing streak.

All the goals came in the third period, with Gino Odjick's third of the season snapping a 1-1 tie. Kevin Miller's centering pass deflected off Odjick's skate past Joseph at 7:21 of the third period.

Kings 4, Canucks 3
Vladimir Tsyplakov scored with 3:57 left as visiting Los Angeles snapped a four-game winless streak.

Luc Robitaille scored twice for the Kings.

Tsyplakov was parked in front of the Vancouver net when Sean O'Donnell kept the puck in at the blue line and wristed a shot from the point. The puck hit a Canucks defender and bounced to Tsyplakov, who stuffed a shot under goalie Corey Hirsch for his third goal of the season.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	7	5	0	14	25	26
N.Y. Islanders	7	7	0	14	34	35
Pittsburgh	5	3	4	14	32	32
Philadelphia	5	5	4	14	34	33
N.Y. Rangers	3	6	4	10	24	36
Northeast Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	6	6	3	15	36	26
Montreal	6	5	2	14	34	33
Toronto	6	6	2	14	41	44
Buffalo	5	3	3	13	30	23
Ottawa	6	5	0	12	37	34
Southeast Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	6	5	3	15	34	29
Tampa Bay	6	6	2	14	36	39
Florida	4	5	3	11	27	35
Washington	4	6	3	11	28	35

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	7	5	0	14	37	30
St. Louis	5	3	4	14	30	26
Chicago	4	7	2	10	28	39
Nashville	4	7	1	9	30	37
Northwest Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Edmonton	8	5	0	16	46	34
Vancouver	6	6	1	13	40	34
Calgary	5	6	2	12	34	36
Colorado	4	6	1	9	32	44
Pacific Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	7	2	2	16	29	23
Phoenix	6	2	1	13	27	15
Los Angeles	5	6	3	13	30	33
Anaheim	3	5	4	10	26	27
San Jose	2	6	4	8	28	31

GERSHON

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"The only reason I won't pull a red card is because you don't mention that color at this club."

Players were informed of the coaching change yesterday morning when Harush gathered them together for a meeting.

The change came following the defending champion's first league loss on Sunday against Rishon, which dropped Tel Aviv out of first place with a 5-1 record.

The move also came less than a week after another loss in the EuroLeague, where the Israelis are struggling with a 2-4 mark.

However, those losses include two defeats against powerhouse Panathinaikos and one against Efess Pilsen.

The club has been beset by major injuries this season to foreign players Willie Anderson, who has since

been released; guard Borko Radovic and forward Gur Shelef. In addition, Bosman player Nikola Loncar, who was supposed to provide a legitimate outside threat, was a huge disappointment and is in the process of being released.

Team captain Nadav Henefeld said last night that "all the players are still trying to cope with the situation and are shocked at the move."

Doron Sheffer, who along with Leaf was a cornerstone of Gershon's 1993 championship at Galil, said "a lot has happened in the past five years since I played for Pini, and I hope that the sweet memories will repeat themselves."

Regarding Harush, Sheffer said that the "players don't feel less responsible for the current situation the club is in."

This is the fourth time this decade that Maccabi has changed coaches in the middle of the season (1990, '93 and '96), after it did not happen at all in the 1980s.

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Spurs dump Liverpool from League Cup

LONDON (Reuters) - Norwegian striker Steffen Iversen scored one goal and made another to thrust Tottenham Hotspur into the English League Cup quarter-finals with a 3-1 win over Liverpool yesterday.

Iversen fired Tottenham ahead after just two minutes at Anfield and provided the pass for Allan Nielsen to seal success with the third goal after 62 minutes.

League Cup, fourth round: Bolton 1, Wimbledon 2; Liverpool 1, Tottenham 3; Luton 1, Barnsley 0. Division one: Portsmouth 1, Norwich 2; Tranmere 0, Bradford 1; Wolverhampton 2, Sheffield United 1. Division two: Bristol Rovers 0, Blackpool 2; Burnley 0, Stoke 2; Chesterfield 3, Bournemouth 1; Colchester 1, Northampton 0; Gillingham 2, Oldham 1; Preston 0, Millwall 1; Walsall 2, Lincoln 1; Wrexham 0, Fulham 2; Wycombe 1, Manchester City 0; York 0, Macclesfield 2. Division three: Barnet 1, Scunthorpe 0; Brentford 4, Southend 1; Cardiff 1, Scarborough 0; Darlington v Carlisle postponed; Halifax 3, Chester 2; Hartlepool 1, Mansfield 2; Hull 0, Brighton 2; Peterborough 2, Cambridge 1; Plymouth 1, Swansea 2; Rochdale 1, Exeter 1; Rotherham 2, Torquay 2; Shrewsbury 1, Leyton Orient 1.

Braves deal Neagle to Reds

ATLANTA (AP) - The Braves traded pitcher Denny Neagle to the Cincinnati Reds last night as part of a deal that brought second baseman Bret Boone to Atlanta.

The deal also sent pitcher Mike Remlinger to the Braves and outfielder Michael Tucker to the Reds.

Stewart powers Steelers over Pack



PITTSBURGH (AP) - Kordell Stewart could do no wrong on a night the Green Bay Packers could do virtually nothing right until it was too late.

Stewart, benched last week in one of Pittsburgh's worst losses of the Bill Cowher era, passed and ran the Steelers to a 24-point half-time lead and a 27-20 victory Monday night.

The Packers (6-3) rallied to score the final 20 points, but were outtrushed 144-39 to fall two games behind Minnesota in the NFC Central.

"How big was this? This was huge," said Pittsburgh's Jerome Bettis, who ran for 100 yards for the seventh straight time on a Monday night. "If we lose, we're two games behind (in the AFC Central). This was what we needed."

Especially for Stewart, who emerged from a season-long slump. Pumping his fists and leaping with joy like a school kid on a playground with every perfectly thrown pass, Stewart ran for a touchdown, threw an 8-yard TD pass to Charles Johnson and set up a third score with a 45-yard throw to rookie Hines Ward in his best game in nearly a year.

And that was only the first half. "We haven't been coming out throwing, but we felt we had to do it because their offense is so potent," receiver Courtney Hawkins said. "We had to keep their offense off the field."

Stewart was 15-of-22 for 231 yards and no interceptions in his most dominating performance since throwing for three touchdowns and running for two in a December victory over Denver. Since then, he had eight touchdowns and 17 interceptions in 12 games, forcing Cowher to continually defend his decision to keep playing him.

Stewart looked nothing like the hesitant, unconfident quarterback whose poor play was threatening to unravel the Steelers' season and leave them challenging only for a wild card spot.

Instead, the Steelers (6-3) stayed

within a game of AFC Central leader Jacksonville (7-2) with two games left against the Jaguars.

"It's a big game, the biggest of the season. We couldn't afford to lose," said cornerback Carnell Lake, who played despite a severely sprained right ankle.

And now the Packers (6-3) are in a precarious situation, just a week after a 36-22 victory over San Francisco pulled them within a game of Minnesota.

"We tried to match their intensity but we couldn't," Packers coach Mike Holmgren said. "But there is no quit in this team, and we battled back at the end. If we had gotten the ball back one more time, who knows what would have happened?"

The Packers' second Monday night meltdown in barely a month - Randall Cunningham passed for 442 yards in Minnesota's 37-24 romp on October 5 - came just when the Vikings (8-1) finally seemed vulnerable. Both Cunningham and Brad Johnson are hurt and may not play Sunday against Cincinnati.

But the Packers, who displayed a playoff-like intensity against the 49ers, came off flat and overcautious, and they didn't begin playing like two-time defending NFC champions until it was too late.

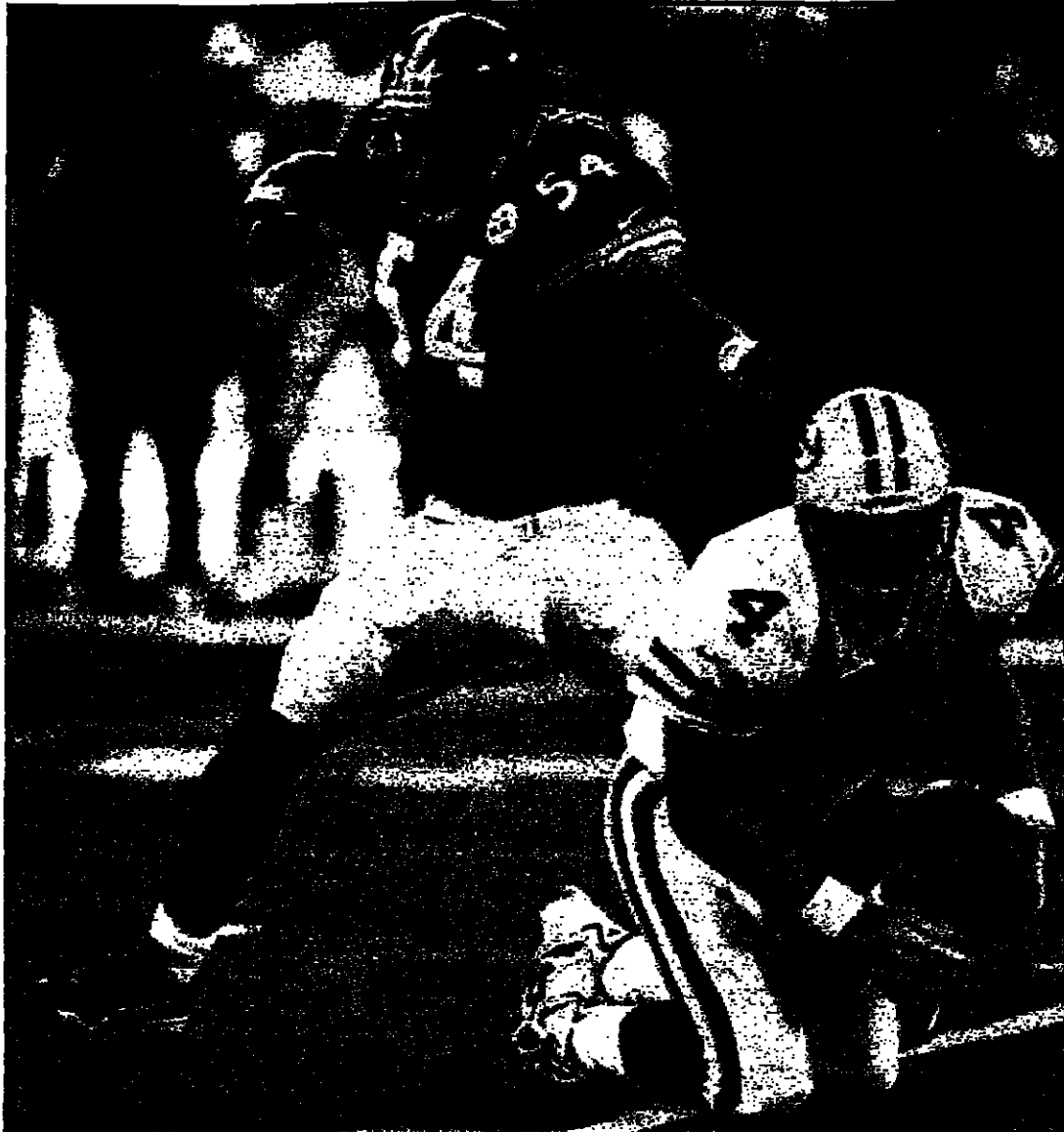
Reggie White, who manhandled the 49ers' offensive line in the Packers' nine-sack performance last week, had only one sack, and it didn't come until the Steelers led 27-0.

White upended backup quarterback Mike Tomczak on a third-and-goal play from the Packers' 4, allowing Keith McKenzie to run 88 yards for the longest fumble return touchdown in Packers' history.

That play got the Packers' offense going. Favre drove them 74 yards for Raymond Harris' 2-yard TD run and a 2-point conversion pass to Antonio Freeman that made it 27-17 with 4:52 left.

The desperate Packers then recovered an onside kick, but stalled at the Steelers' 19 and Ryan Longwell kicked a 37-yard field goal with 2:40 to go.

Green Bay then tried another onside kick, but Steelers tight end Mark Bruener recovered at the Packers' 41, allowing Pittsburgh to run out the clock and Bettis to hit 100 yards on a 34-carry night.



DO A LITTLE DANCE - Steelers linebacker Donta Jones (54) celebrates after sacking Packers QB Brett Favre for an eight-yard loss in second-quarter action.

Favre's number's looked good - 22-of-39 for 234 yards and an interception - but most of the yards came in the fourth quarter. The Steelers had dominated until then, outgaining the Packers 274-72 in the first half while out-rushing them 105-16.

Green Bay 0 0 3 17-20
Pittsburgh 14 10 3 0-27
First Quarter: PG-CJohnson 8 pass from Stewart (NJohnson kick), 10:28. PG-Stewart 1 run (NJohnson kick), 2:1. Second Quarter: PG-FG NJohnson 45, 8:12. PG-Fuamasi-Merilaia 5 run (NJohnson kick), 2:8. Third Quarter: PG-FG NJohnson 21, 8:00. GB-FG Longwell 42, 2:44. Fourth Quarter: GB-McKenzie 88 fumble return (pass failed), 9:20. GB-Harris 2 run (Freeman pass from Favre), 4:52. GB-FG Longwell 37, 2:40. A-50-507.

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	6	3	0	.667	165	123
N.Y. Jets	6	3	0	.667	220	151
Buffalo	5	4	0	.556	200	196
New England	5	4	0	.556	201	179
Indianapolis	1	8	0	.111	142	241
Central	7	2	0	.778	233	176
Jacksonville	6	3	0	.667	164	161
Atlanta	5	4	0	.556	216	179
Tennessee	3	6	0	.333	134	189
Baltimore	2	7	0	.222	164	243
Cincinnati	2	7	0	.222	164	243
West	9	0	0	1.000	309	169
Denver	6	3	0	.667	156	158
Oakland	5	4	0	.556	196	142
Seattle	4	5	0	.444	160	167
Kansas City	4	5	0	.444	160	167
San Diego	3	6	0	.333	113	166

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	6	3	0	.667	224	121
Arizona	5	4	0	.556	154	197
N.Y. Giants	3	6	0	.333	164	189
Philadelphia	2	7	0	.222	89	205
Washington	1	8	0	.111	141	270
Central	8	1	0	.889	296	167
Minnesota	6	3	0	.667	239	193
Green Bay	4	5	0	.444	143	176
Tampa Bay	3	6	0	.333	164	198
Chicago	2	7	0	.222	171	219
West	7	2	0	.778	253	176
Atlanta	7	2	0	.778	273	186
San Francisco	4	5	0	.444	162	201
New Orleans	4	5	0	.444	162	201
St. Louis	3	6	0	.333	174	216
Carolina	1	8	0	.111	182	241

Gershon replaces Harush at Mac TA

By BRIAN FREEMAN and OFER RONEN-ABELS

Thirty years after failing to make the team as a player, Pini Gershon has taken over as Maccabi Tel Aviv's head coach in place of Yoram Harush, the basketball club announced yesterday.

The change at the top followed a terse announcement by the club that Harush had asked to be released from his duties. He was not available for comment.

Harush was in his first season as head coach after having served as Maccabi's assistant coach for three years.

"I feel just like a teenager stepping through the gates of high school for the first time," Gershon said last night at Yad Eliahu. "Thirty years ago I stepped through the gate, and now I'm back."

Gershon, who is best known for taking Hapoel Galil Elyon to the league championship in 1993 to break Maccabi's 23-year reign and for leading Hapoel Jerusalem over Maccabi in the 1996 State Cup, held his first practice with the team last night.

He won't have much time to adjust, as Maccabi travels today to Istanbul for tomorrow's EuroLeague encounter against Efes Pilsen and then returns to Yad Eliahu for a battle against first-place Hapoel Jerusalem on Sunday in a league matchup.

"I'll do the pantomime [for the game against Efes Pilsen], but (assistant coach) Brad Leaf will call the plays," Gershon said.

Gershon started this season at the helm of Maccabi Rishon LeZion before leaving a few weeks ago due to problems with management.

When asked how his outspoken style would fit in at Maccabi when he couldn't even agree with the owners at a smaller outfit in Rishon, Gershon said "I'm the coach and I'll be asking the board of directors, and if they don't answer me, I'll pull a yellow card on them."

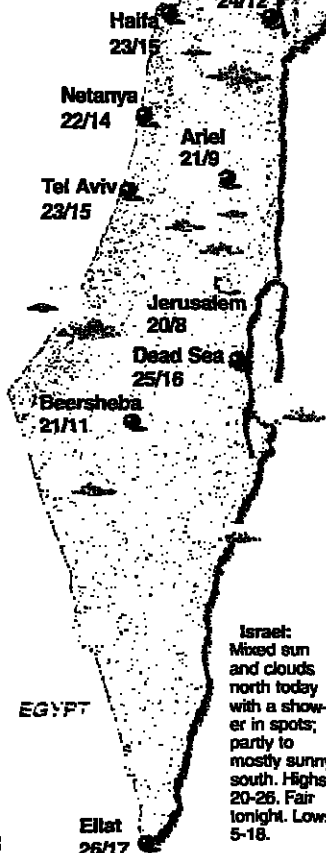
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AIR CANADA

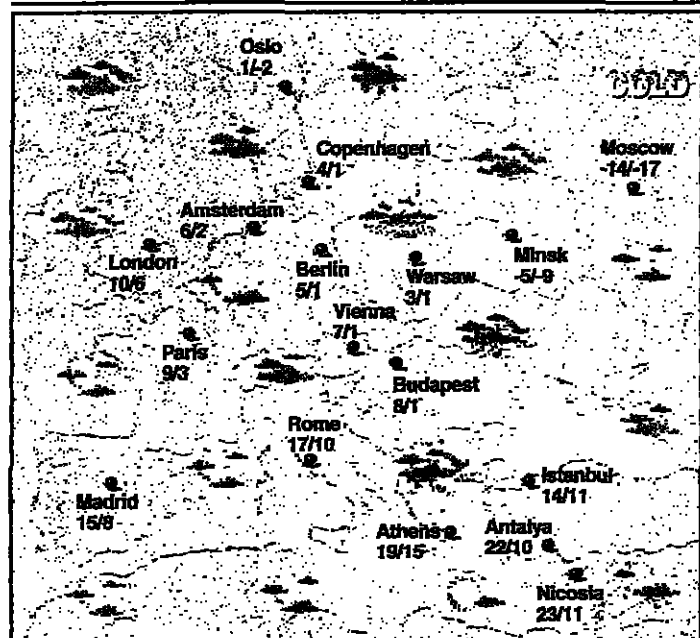
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THE WEATHER

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EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



ISRAEL CITIES

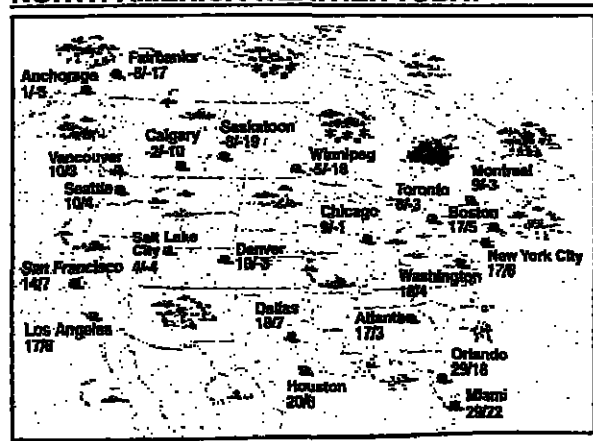
City	Today High/Low	Thursday High/Low	Friday High/Low	Saturday High/Low
Rishon	23/17	23/17	23/17	23/17
Beer Sheva	21/10	21/10	21/10	21/10
Dead Sea	25/17	25/17	25/17	25/17
Eilat	26/19	26/19	26/19	26/19
Haifa	23/13	23/13	23/13	23/13
Jerusalem	20/8	20/8	20/8	20/8
Katza	21/10	21/10	21/10	21/10
Netanya	22/11	22/11	22/11	22/11
Tel Aviv	23/13	23/13	23/13	23/13
Tiberias	24/15	24/15	24/15	24/15

Weather (W): sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, showers, thunderstorms, rain, snow, fog, haze, ice, etc.

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today High/Low	Thursday High/Low	Friday High/Low	Saturday High/Low
Ankara	18/8	18/8	18/8	18/8
Bahia	24/14	24/14	24/14	24/14
Bahia	24/14	24/14	24/14	24/14
Bahia	24/14	24/14	24/14	24/14
Bahia	24/14	24/14	24/14	24/14
Bahia	24/14	24/14	24/14	24/14
Bahia	24/14	24/14	24/14	24/14
Bahia	24/14	24/14	24/14	24/14
Bahia	24/14	24/14	24/14	24/14
Bahia	24/14	24/14	24/14	24/14

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